EXHIBIT 1

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(12) United States Patent

Wilton et al.

(10) Patent No.: US

US 8,455,636 B2 Jun. 4, 2013

(54) ANTISENSE OLIGONUCLEOTIDES FOR INDUCING EXON SKIPPING AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

(75) Inventors: Stephen Donald Wilton, Applecross

(AU); **Sue Fletcher**, Bayswater (AU); **Graham McClorey**, Bayswater (AU)

(73) Assignee: The University of Western Australia,

Crawley (AU)

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(21) Appl. No.: 13/271,080

(22) Filed: Oct. 11, 2011

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2012/0022145 A1 Jan. 26, 2012

Related U.S. Application Data

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(30) Foreign Application Priority Data

(51) **Int. Cl.** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

USPC **536/24.5**; 536/24.31; 536/24.1; 514/44

(58) Field of Classification Search

See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Kimberly Chong

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP; Amy E. Mandragouras, Esq.; Erika L. Wallace

(57) ABSTRACT

An antisense molecule capable of binding to a selected target site to induce exon skipping in the dystrophin gene, as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 to 202.

43 Claims, 22 Drawing Sheets

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FIGURE 1

ucaugcacugagugaccucuuucucgcagGCGCUAGCUGGAGCA/////CCGUGCAGACUGACGgucucau Donor ESE ф

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SEQ ID NO:213

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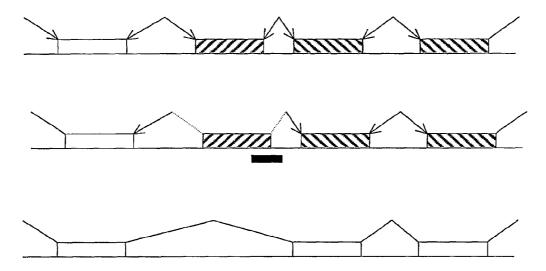


FIGURE 2

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H8A(-06+14) H8A(-06+18)
M 600 300 100 50 20 UT 600 300 100 50 20 UT M

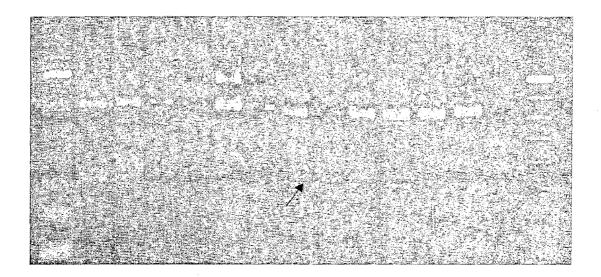


FIGURE 3

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H7A(+45+67) H7A(+2+26)
M 600 300 100 50 20 600N M 600 300 100 50 20 600N M

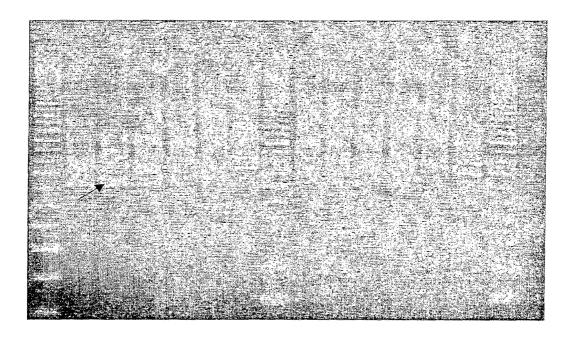


FIGURE 4

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H6D(+4-21) H6D(+18-4) (nM)

M 600 300 100 50 20 600N M 600 300 100 50 20 UT

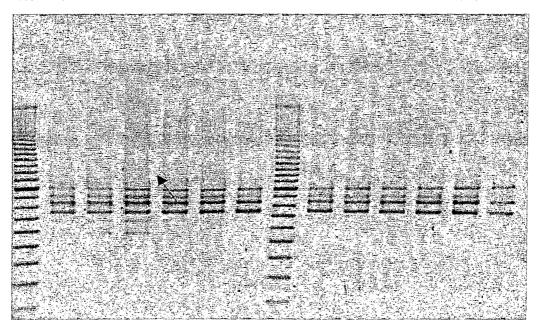


FIGURE 5

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6A(+69+91)

M 600 300 200 100 50 20 UT

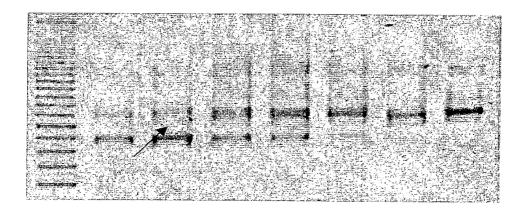


FIGURE 6

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M 600 300 100 50 20 UT Neg M

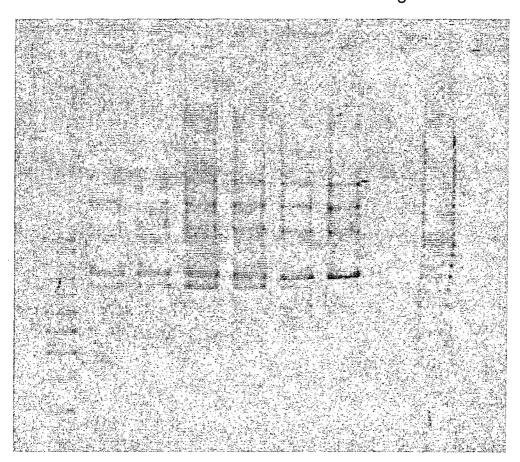
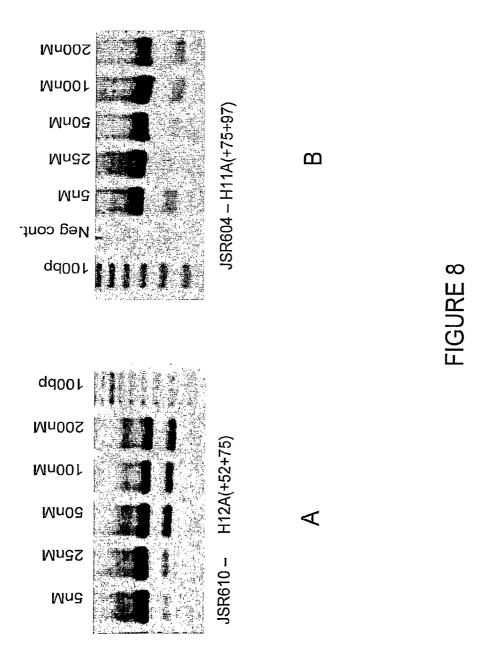
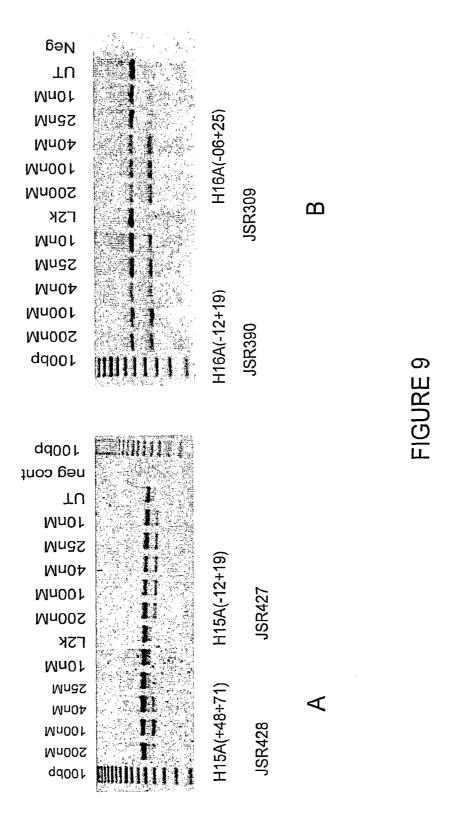


FIGURE 7

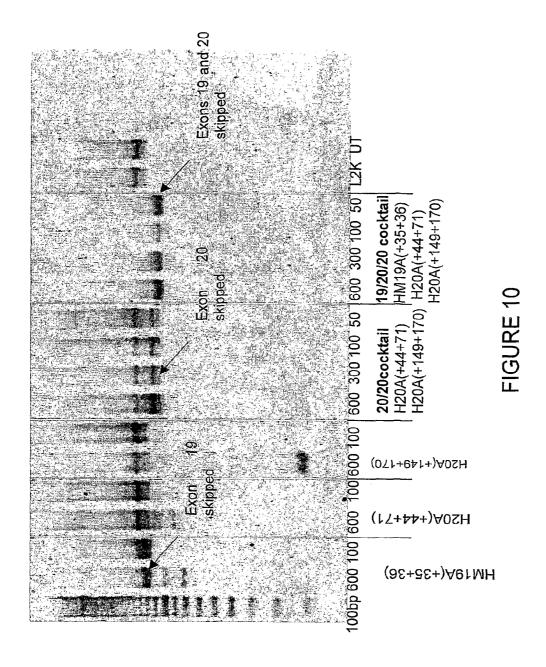
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19/20/20 cocktail HM19A(+35+36) H20A(+44+71) H20A(+149+170)	
Weasel19/20 H19A(+35+53)- aa- H20A(+149+168)	FIGURE 11
Weasel19/20 H19A(+35+53)- aa- H20A(+44+63)	ш.
Weasel19/20/20 H19A(+35+53)-aa- H20A(+44+63)-aa- H20A(+149+168)	

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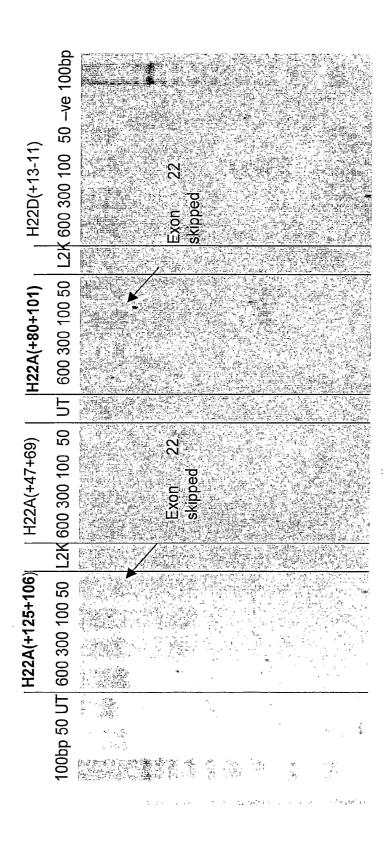


FIGURE 12

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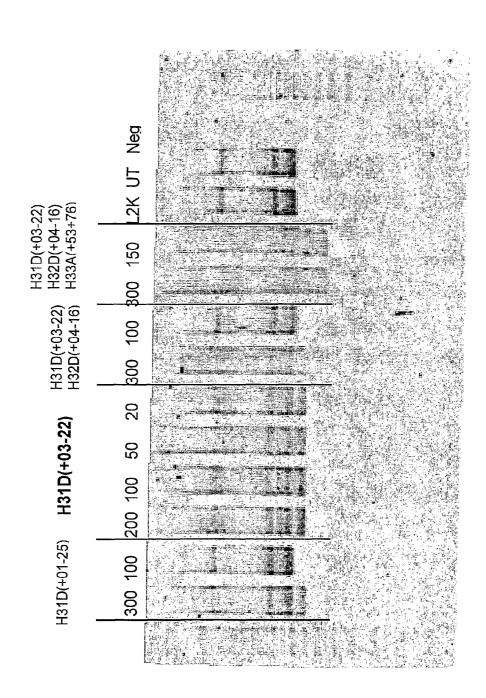


FIGURE 1

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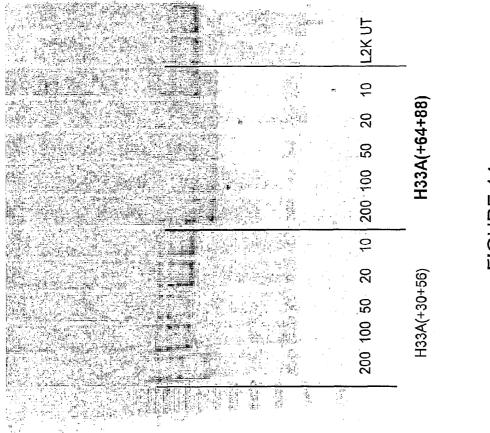


FIGURE 14

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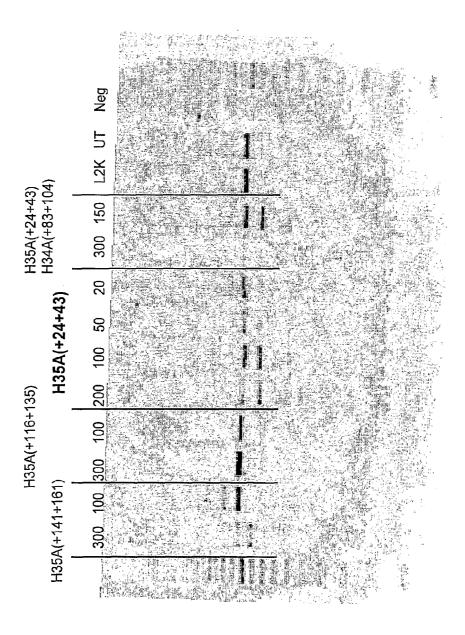
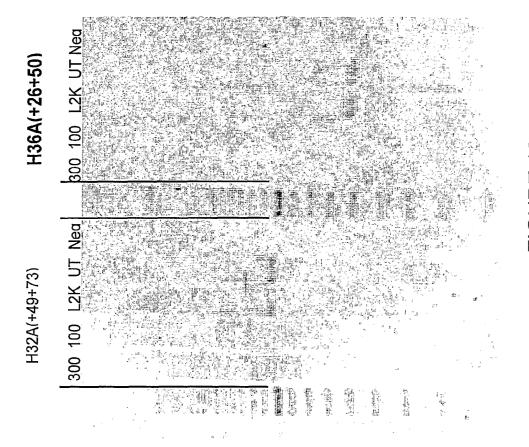


FIGURE 1

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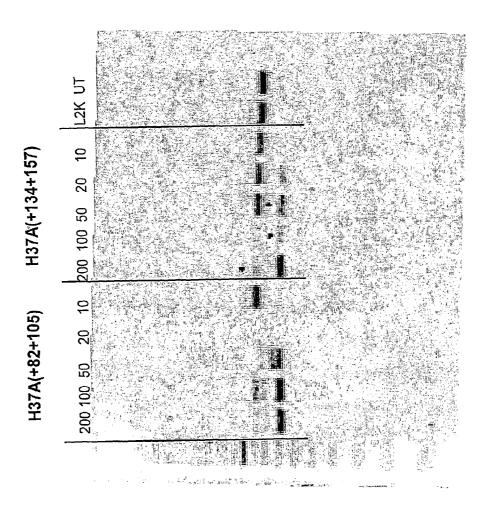


FIGURE 1

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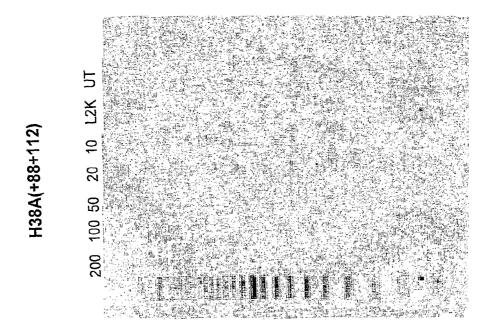


FIGURE 18

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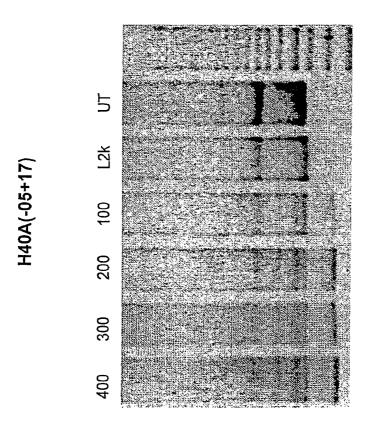


FIGURE 19

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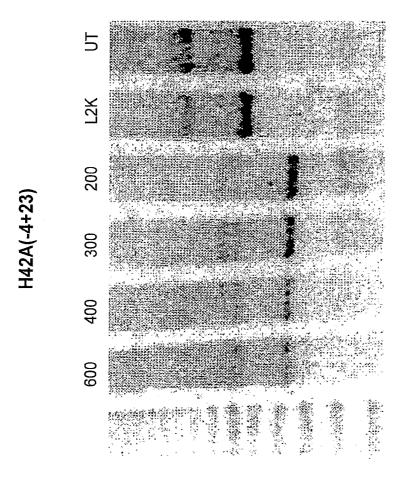


FIGURE 2(

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H46A(+86+115)

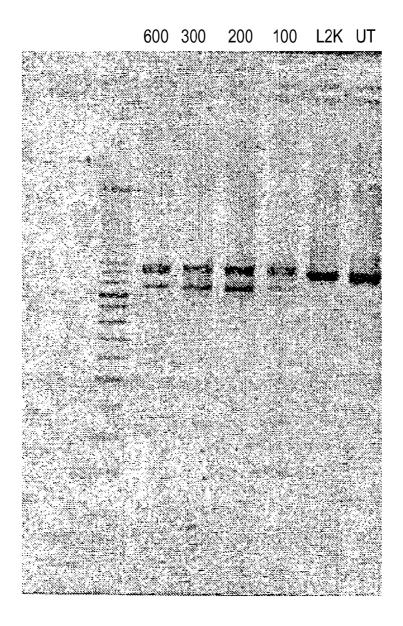
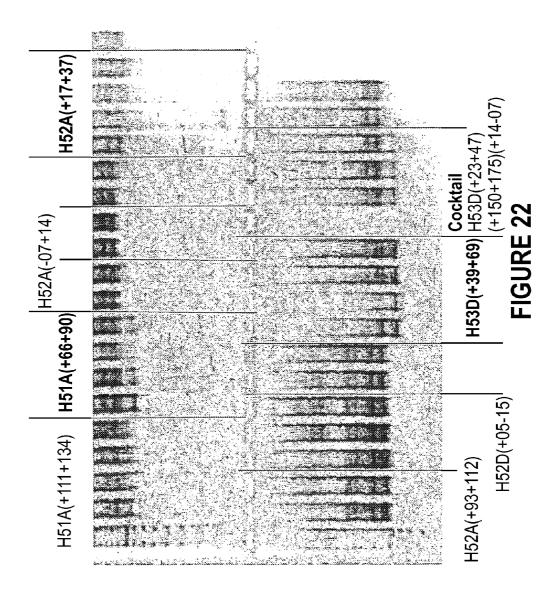


FIGURE 21

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ANTISENSE OLIGONUCLEOTIDES FOR INDUCING EXON SKIPPING AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/837,359, filed Jul. 15, 2010, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/570,691, filed Jan. 15, 2008, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,807,816, which is a 35 U.S.C. §371 National Phase Application of PCT/AU2005/000943, filed Jun. 28, 2005, which claims priority to Australian Patent Application No. 2004903474, filed Jun. 28, 2004; these applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

STATEMENT REGARDING SEQUENCE LISTING

The instant application contains a Sequence Listing which has been submitted in ASCII format via EFS-Web and is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Said ASCII copy, created on Jan. 30, 2013, is named SequenceListing.txt and is 61 Kilobytes in size. The Sequence Listing is being submitted by EFS Web and is hereby incorporated by reference into the specification.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to novel antisense compounds and compositions suitable for facilitating exon skipping. It also provides methods for inducing exon skipping using the novel antisense compounds as well as therapeutic compositions adapted for use in the methods of the invention. ³⁵

BACKGROUND ART

Significant effort is currently being expended researching methods for suppressing or compensating for disease-causing 40 mutations in genes. Antisense technologies are being developed using a range of chemistries to affect gene expression at a variety of different levels (transcription, splicing, stability, translation). Much of that research has focused on the use of antisense compounds to correct or compensate for abnormal 45 or disease-associated genes in a myriad of different conditions.

Antisense molecules are able to inhibit gene expression with exquisite specificity and because of this many research efforts concerning oligonucleotides as modulators of gene 50 expression have focused on inhibiting the expression of targeted genes such as oncogenes or viral genes. The antisense oligonucleotides are directed either against RNA (sense strand) or against DNA where they form triplex structures inhibiting transcription by RNA polymerase II. To achieve a 55 desired effect in specific gene down-regulation, the oligonucleotides must either promote the decay of the targeted mRNA or block translation of that mRNA, thereby effectively preventing de novo synthesis of the undesirable target protein.

Such techniques are not useful where the object is to upregulate production of the native protein or compensate for mutations which induce premature termination of translation such as nonsense or frame-shifting mutations. Furthermore, in cases where a normally functional protein is prematurely 65 terminated because of mutations therein, a means for restoring some functional protein production through antisense

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technology has been shown to be possible through intervention during the splicing processes (Sierakowska H, et al., (1996) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 93, 12840-12844; Wilton S D, et al., (1999) *Neuromusc Disorders* 9, 330-338; van Deutekom J C et al., (2001) *Human Mol Genet.* 10, 1547-1554). In these cases, the defective gene transcript should not be subjected to targeted degradation so the antisense oligonucle-otide chemistry should not promote target mRNA decay.

In a variety of genetic diseases, the effects of mutations on the eventual expression of a gene can be modulated through a process of targeted exon skipping during the splicing process. The splicing process is directed by complex multi-particle machinery that brings adjacent exon-intron junctions in premRNA into close proximity and performs cleavage of phosphodiester bonds at the ends of the introns with their subsequent reformation between exons that are to be spliced together. This complex and highly precise process is mediated by sequence motifs in the pre-mRNA that are relatively short semi-conserved RNA segments to which bind the vari-20 ous nuclear splicing factors that are then involved in the splicing reactions. By changing the way the splicing machinery reads or recognises the motifs involved in pre-mRNA processing, it is possible to create differentially spliced mRNA molecules. It has now been recognised that the majority of human genes are alternatively spliced during normal gene expression, although the mechanisms invoked have not been identified. Using antisense oligonucleotides, it has been shown that errors and deficiencies in a coded mRNA could be bypassed or removed from the mature gene transcripts.

In nature, the extent of genetic deletion or exon skipping in the splicing process is not fully understood, although many instances have been documented to occur, generally at very low levels (Sherrat T G, et al., (1993) *Am J Hum Genet*. 53, 1007-1015). However, it is recognised that if exons associated with disease-causing mutations can be specifically deleted from some genes, a shortened protein product can sometimes be produced that has similar biological properties of the native protein or has sufficient biological activity to ameliorate the disease caused by mutations associated with the target exon (Lu Q L, et al., (2003) *Nature Medicine* 9, 1009-1014; Aartsma-Rus A et al., (2004) *Am J Hum Genet*. 74: 83-92).

This process of targeted exon skipping is likely to be particularly useful in long genes where there are many exons and introns, where there is redundancy in the genetic constitution of the exons or where a protein is able to function without one or more particular exons (e.g. with the dystrophin gene, which consists of 79 exons; or possibly some collagen genes which encode for repeated blocks of sequence or the huge nebulin or titin genes which are comprised of ~80 and over 370 exons, respectively).

Efforts to redirect gene processing for the treatment of genetic diseases associated with truncations caused by mutations in various genes have focused on the use of antisense oligonucleotides that either: (1) fully or partially overlap with the elements involved in the splicing process; or (2) bind to the pre-mRNA at a position sufficiently close to the element to disrupt the binding and function of the splicing factors that would normally mediate a particular splicing reaction which occurs at that element (e.g., binds to the pre-mRNA at a position within 3, 6, or 9 nucleotides of the element to be blocked).

For example, modulation of mutant dystrophin pre-mRNA splicing with antisense oligoribonucleotides has been reported both in vitro and in vivo. In one type of dystrophin mutation reported in Japan, a 52-base pair deletion mutation causes exon 19 to be removed with the flanking introns during

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the splicing process (Matsuo et al., (1991) *J Clin Invest.* 87:2127-2131). An in vitro minigene splicing system has been used to show that a 31-mer 2'-O-methyl oligoribonucle-otide complementary to the 5' half of the deleted sequence in dystrophin Kobe exon 19 inhibited splicing of wild-type pre-mRNA (Takeshima et al. (1995), *J. Clin. Invest.*, 95, 515-520). The same oligonucleotide was used to induce exon skipping from the native dystrophin gene transcript in human cultured lymphoblastoid cells.

Dunckley et al., (1997) *Nucleosides & Nucleotides*, 16, 10 1665-1668 described in vitro constructs for analysis of splicing around exon 23 of mutated dystrophin in the mdx mouse mutant, a model for muscular dystrophy. Plans to analyse these constructs in vitro using 2' modified oligonucleotides targeted to splice sites within and adjacent to mouse dystrophin exon 23 were discussed, though no target sites or sequences were given.

2'-O-methyl oligoribonucleotides were subsequently reported to correct dystrophin deficiency in myoblasts from the mdx mouse from this group. An antisense oligonucleotide 20 targeted to the 3' splice site of murine dystrophin intron 22 was reported to cause skipping of the mutant exon as well as several flanking exons and created a novel in-frame dystrophin transcript with a novel internal deletion. This mutated dystrophin was expressed in 1-2% of antisense treated mdx 25 myotubes. Use of other oligonucleotide modifications such as 2'-O-methoxyethyl phosphodiesters are described (Dunckley et al. (1998) *Human Mol. Genetics*, 5, 1083-90).

Thus, antisense molecules may provide a tool in the treatment of genetic disorders such as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). However, attempts to induce exon skipping using antisense molecules have had mixed success. Studies on dystrophin exon 19, where successful skipping of that exon from the dystrophin pre-mRNA was achieved using a variety of antisense molecules directed at the flanking splice 35 sites or motifs within the exon involved in exon definition as described by Errington et al. (2003) *J Gen Med* 5, 518-527".

In contrast to the apparent ease of exon 19 skipping, the first report of exon 23 skipping in the mdx mouse by Dunckley et al., (1998) is now considered to be reporting only a 40 naturally occurring revertant transcript or artefact rather than any true antisense activity. In addition to not consistently generating transcripts missing exon 23, Dunckley et al., (1998) did not show any time course of induced exon skipping, or even titration of antisense oligonucleotides, to demonstrate dose dependent effects where the levels of exon skipping corresponded with increasing or decreasing amounts of antisense oligonucleotide. Furthermore, this work could not be replicated by other researchers.

The first example of specific and reproducible exon skipping in the mdx mouse model was reported by Wilton et al., (1999) *Neuromuscular Disorders* 9, 330-338. By directing an antisense molecule to the donor splice site, consistent and efficient exon 23 skipping was induced in the dystrophin mRNA within 6 hours of treatment of the cultured cells. Wilton et al., (1999), also describe targeting the acceptor region of the mouse dystrophin pre-mRNA with longer antisense oligonucleotides and being being the published results of Dunckley et al., (1998). No exon skipping, either 23 alone or multiple removal of several flanking exons, could be reproducibly detected using a selection of antisense oligonucleotides directed at the acceptor splice site of intron 29

While the first antisense oligonucleotide directed at the intron 23 donor splice site induced consistent exon skipping in primary cultured myoblasts, this compound was found to be much less efficient in immortalized cell cultures express-

ing higher levels of dystrophin. However, with refined targeting and antisense oligonucleotide design, the efficiency of specific exon removal was increased by almost an order of magnitude (see Mann C J et al., (2002) *J Gen Med* 4, 644-

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Thus, there remains a need to provide antisense oligonucleotides capable of binding to and modifying the splicing of a target nucleotide sequence. Simply directing the antisense oligonucleotides to motifs presumed to be crucial for splicing is no guarantee of the efficacy of that compound in a therapeutic setting.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides antisense molecule compounds and compositions suitable for binding to RNA motifs involved in the splicing of pre-mRNA that are able to induce specific and efficient exon skipping and a method for their use thereof.

The choice of target selection plays a crucial role in the efficiency of exon skipping and hence its subsequent application of a potential therapy. Simply designing antisense molecules to target regions of pre-mRNA presumed to be involved in splicing is no guarantee of inducing efficient and specific exon skipping. The most obvious or readily defined targets for splicing intervention are the donor and acceptor splice sites although there are less defined or conserved motifs including exonic splicing enhancers, silencing elements and branch points.

The acceptor and donor splice sites have consensus sequences of about 16 and 8 bases respectively (see FIG. 1 for schematic representation of motifs and domains involved in exon recognition, intron removal and the splicing process).

According to a first aspect, the invention provides antisense molecules capable of binding to a selected target to induce exon skipping.

For example, to induce exon skipping in exons 3 to 8, 10 to 16, 19 to 40, 42 to 44, 46, 47, and 50 to 53 in the Dystrophin gene transcript the antisense molecules are preferably selected from the group listed in Table 1A.

In a further example, it is possible to combine two or more antisense oligonucleotides of the present invention together to induce multiple exon skipping in exons 19-20, and 53. This is a similar concept to targeting of a single exon. A combination or "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides are directed at adjacent exons to induce efficient exon skipping.

In another example, to induce exon skipping in exons 19-20, 31, 34 and 53 it is possible to improve exon skipping of a single exon by joining together two or more antisense oligonucleotide molecules. This concept is termed by the inventor as a "weasel", an example of a cunningly designed antisense molecule to the donor splice site, consistent and ficient exon 23 skipping was induced in the dystrophin

According to a second aspect, the present invention provides antisense molecules selected and or adapted to aid in the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a genetic disorder comprising at least an antisense molecule in a form suitable for delivery to a patient.

According to a third aspect, the invention provides a method for treating a patient suffering from a genetic disease wherein there is a mutation in a gene encoding a particular protein and the affect of the mutation can be abrogated by exon skipping, comprising the steps of: (a) selecting an antisense molecule in accordance with the methods described herein; and (b) administering the molecule to a patient in need of such treatment.

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The invention also addresses the use of purified and isolated antisense oligonucleotides of the invention, for the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of a genetic dis-

The invention further provides a method of treating a condition characterised by Duchenne muscular dystrophy, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of an appropriately designed antisense oligonucleotide of the invention, relevant to the particular genetic lesion in that patient. Further, the invention provides a method for prophylactically treating a patient to prevent or at least minimise Duchene muscular dystrophy, comprising the step of: administering to the patient an effective amount of an antisense oligonucleotide or a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more of these biological

The invention also provides kits for treating a genetic disease, which kits comprise at least a antisense oligonucleotide of the present invention, packaged in a suitable container and 20 instructions for its use.

Other aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from a review of the ensuing description, which proceeds with reference to the following figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- FIG. 1 Schematic representation of motifs and domains involved in exon recognition, intron removal and the splicing process (SEQ ID NO: 213 and SEQ ID NO: 214).
- FIG. 2. Diagrammatic representation of the concept of antisense oligonucleotide induced exon skipping to by-pass 35 disease-causing mutations (not drawn to scale). The hatched box represents an exon carrying a mutation that prevents the translation of the rest of the mRNA into a protein. The solid black bar represents an antisense oligonucleotide that prevents inclusion of that exon in the mature mRNA.
- FIG. 3 Gel electrophoresis showing differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 8 acceptor splice site. The preferred compound [H8A(-06+18)] induces strong and consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured normal human muscle cells. The 45 less preferred antisense oligonucleotide [H8A(-06+14)] also induces efficient exon skipping, but at much higher concentrations. Other antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 8 either only induced lower levels of exon skipping or no detectable skipping at all (not shown).
- FIG. 4 Gel electrophoresis showing differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at internal domains within exon 7, presumably exon splicing enhancers. The preferred compound [H7A(+45+67)] induces strong and consismolar in cultured human muscle cells. The less preferred antisense oligonucleotide [H7A(+2+26)] induces only low levels of exon skipping at the higher transfection concentrations. Other antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 7 either only induced lower levels of exon skipping or no 60 detectable skipping at all (not shown).
- FIG. 5 Gel electrophoresis showing an example of low efficiency exon 6 skipping using two non-preferred antisense molecules directed at human exon 6 donor splice site. Levels of induced exon 6 skipping are either very low [H6D(+04-21)] or almost undetectable [H6D(+18-04)]. These are examples of non-preferred antisense oligonucleotides to

6 demonstrate that antisense oligonucleotide design plays a crucial role in the efficacy of these compounds.

- FIG. 6 Gel electrophoresis showing strong and efficient human exon 6 skipping using an antisense molecules [H6A (+69+91)] directed at an exon 6 internal domain, presumably an exon splicing enhancer. This preferred compound induces consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured human muscle cells.
- FIG. 7 Gel electrophoresis showing strong human exon 4 skipping using an antisense molecule H4A(+13+32) directed at an exon 6 internal domain, presumably an exon splicing enhancer. This preferred compound induces strong and consistent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nanomolar in cultured human muscle cells.
- FIG. 8 Gel electrophoresis showing (8B) strong human exon 11 skipping using antisense molecule H11A(+75+97) directed at an exon 11 internal domain; and (8B) strong human exon 12 skipping using antisense molecule H12A(+ 52+75) directed at exon 12 internal domain.
- FIG. 9 Gel electrophoresis showing (9A) strong human exon 15 skipping using antisense molecules H15A(+48+71) and H15A(-12+19) directed at an exon 15 internal domain; and (9B) strong human exon 16 skipping using antisense ²⁵ molecules H16A(-12+19) and H16A(-06+25).
 - FIG. 10 Gel electrophoresis showing human exon 19/20 skipping using antisense molecules H20A(+44+71) and H20A(+149+170) directed at an exon 20 and a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides H19A(+35+65, H20A(+44+71) and H20A(+149+170) directed at exons 19/20.
 - FIG. 11 Gel electrophoresis showing human exon 19/20 skipping using "weasels" directed at exons 19 and 20.
 - FIG. 12 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 22 skipping using antisense molecules H22A(+125+106), H22A(+47+ 69), H22A(+80+101) and H22D(+13-11) directed at exon 22.
 - FIG. 13 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 31 skipping using antisense molecules H31D(+01-25) and H31D(+03-22); and a "cocktail" of antisense molecules directed at exon
 - FIG. 14 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 33 skipping using antisense molecules H33A(+30+56) and H33A(+64+ 88) directed at exon 33.
 - FIG. 15 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 35 skipping using antisense molecules H35A(+141+161), H35A(+116+ 135), and H35A(+24+43) and a "cocktail of two antisense molecules, directed at exon 35.
- FIG. 16 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 36 skipping using antisense molecules H32A(+49+73) and H36A(+26+ 50 50) directed at exon 36.
 - FIG. 17 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 37 skipping using antisense molecules H37A(+82+105) and H37A(+ 134+157) directed at exon 37.
- FIG. 18 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 38 skipping tent exon skipping at a transfection concentration of 20 nano- 55 using antisense molecule H38A(+88+112) directed at exon
 - FIG. 19 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 40 skipping using antisense molecule H40A(-05+17) directed at exon 40.
 - FIG. 20 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 42 skipping using antisense molecule H42A(-04+23) directed at exon 42.
 - FIG. 21 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 46 skipping using antisense molecule H46A(+86+115) directed at exon
 - FIG. 22 Gel electrophoresis showing exon 51, exon 52 and exon 53 skipping using various antisense molecules directed at exons 51, 52 and 53, respectively. A "cocktail" of antisense molecules is also shown directed at exon 53.

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TABLE 1A

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

Brief Description of the Sequence listings

	Briei Descr	трст	on o	r tn	e se	quen	ce 1.	ISC1	ngs	
SEQ	ID SEQUENCE	NUCI	LEOT:	IDE :	SEQUI	ENCE	(5'-	-3')		
1	H8A(-06 + 18)	GAU	AGG	UGG	UAU	CAA	CAU	CUG	UAA	
2	H8A (-03 + 18)	GAU	AGG	UGG	UAU	CAA	CAU	CUG		
3	H8A(-07 + 18)	GAU	AGG	UGG	UAU	CAA	CAU	CUG	UAA	G
4	H8A(-06 + 14)	GGU	GGU	AUC	AAC	AUC	UGU	AA		
5	H8A(-10 + 10)	GUA	UCA	ACA	UCU	GUA	AGC	AC		
6	H7A(+45 + 67)	UGC	AUG	UUC	CAG	UCG	UUG	UGU	GG	
7	H7A(+02 + 26)	CAC	UAU	UCC	AGU	CAA	AUA	GGU	CUG	G
8	H7D(+15 - 10)	AUU	UAC	CAA	CCU	UCA	GGA	UCG	AGU	A
9	H7A(-18 + 03)	GGC	CUA	AAA	CAC	AUA	CAC	AUA		
10	C6A(-10 + 10)	CAU	טטט	UGA	CCU	ACA	UGU	GG		
11	C6A(-14 + 06)	טטט	GAC	CUA	CAU	GUG	GAA	AG		
12	C6A(-14 + 12)	UAC	AUU	טטט	GAC	CUA	CAU	GUG	GAA	AG
13	C6A(-13 + 09)	AUU	טטט	GAC	CUA	CAU	GGG	AAA	G	
14	CH6A(+69 + 91)	UAC	GAG	UUG	AUU	GUC	GGA	CCC	AG	
15	C6D(+12 - 13)	GUG	GUC	UCC	UUA	CCU	AUG	ACU	GUG	G
16	C6D(+06 - 11)	GGU	CUC	CUU	ACC	UAU	GΑ			
17	H6D(+04 - 21)	UGU	CUC	AGU	AAU	CUU	CUU	ACC	UAU	
18	H6D(+18 - 04)	UCU	UAC	CUA	UGA	CUA	UGG	AUG	AGA	
19	H4A(+13 + 32)	GCA	UGA	ACU	CUU	GUG	GAU	CC		
20	H4D(+04 - 16)	CCA	GGG	UAC	UAC	UUA	CAU	UA		
21	H4D(-24 - 44)	AUC	GUG	UGU	CAC	AGC	AUC	CAG		
22	H4A(+11 + 40)	CUU	UCA	GGG	CAU	GAA	CUC	UUG	UGG	AUC
23	H3A(+30 + 60)	UAG ACU		GCG	CCU	CCC	AUC	CUG	UAG	GUC
24	H3A(+35 + 65)	AGG AGG		AGG	AGG	CGC	CUC	CCA	UCC	UGU
25	H3A(+30 + 54)	GCG	CCU	CCC	AUC	CUG	UAG	GUC	ACU	G
26	H3D(+46 - 21)	CUU	CGA	GGA	GGU	CUA	GGA	GGC	GCC	UC
27	H3A(+30 + 50)	CUC	CCA	UCC	UGU	AGG	UCA	CUG		
28	H3D(+19 - 03)	UAC	CAG	טטט	UUG	CCC	UGU	CAG	G	
29	H3A(-06 + 20)	UCA	AUA	UGC	UGC	UUC	CCA	AAC	UGA	AA
30	H3A(+37 + 61)	CUA	GGA	GGC	GCC	UCC	CAU	CCU	GUA	G
31	H5A(+20 + 50)	CUU		טטט	CCA	UCU	ACG	AUG	UCA	GUA
32	H5D(+25 - 05)	CUU CAA		UGC	CAG	UGG	AGG	AUU	AUA	UUC

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

Brief Description of the Sequence listings

	Brief Descr	ipti	on o	f th	e Se	quen	ce l	isti	ngs			
SEQ I) SEQUENCE	NUCI	LEOT:	IDE S	SEQUE	ENCE	(5'-	-3')				
33	H5D(+10 - 15)	CAU	CAG	GAU	UCU	UAC	CUG	CCA	GUG	G		
34	H5A(+10 + 34)	CGA	UGU	CAG	UAC	UUC	CAA	UAU	UCA	C		
35	H5D(-04 - 21)	ACC	AUU	CAU	CAG	GAU	UCU					
36	H5D(+16 - 02)	ACC	UGC	CAG	UGG	AGG	AUU					
37	H5A(-07 + 20)	CCA	AUA	UUC	ACU	AAA	UCA	ACC	UGU	UAA		
38	H5D(+18 - 12)	CAG UAU	GAU	UCU	UAC	CUG	CCA	GUG	GAG	GAU		
39	H5A(+05 + 35)	ACG	AUG	UCA	GUA	CUU	CCA	AUA	UUC	ACU	AAA	U
40	H5A(+15 + 45)	AUU AAU		AUC	UAC	GAU	GUC	AGU	ACU	UCC		
41	H10A(-05 + 16)	CAG	GAG	CUU	CCA	AAU	GCU	GCA				
42	H10A(-05 + 24)	CUU	GUC	UUC	AGG	AGC	UUC	CAA	AUG	CUG	CA	
43	H10A(+98 + 119)	UCC	UCA	GCA	GAA	AGA	AGC	CAC	G			
44	H10A(+130 + 149)	UUA	GAA	AUC	UCU	CCU	UGU	GC				
45	H10A(-33 - 14)	UAA	AUU	GGG	UGU	UAC	ACA	AU				
46	H11D(+26 + 49)	CCC	UGA	GGC	AUU	CCC	AUC	UUG	AAU			
47	H11D(+11 - 09)	AGG	ACU	UAC	UUG	CUU	UGU	UU				
48	H11A(+118 + 140)	CUU	GAA	טטט	AGG	AGA	UUC	AUC	UG			
49	H11A(+75 + 97)	CAU	CUU	CUG	AUA	AUU	UUC	CUG	UU			
50	H12A(+52 + 75)	UCU	UCU	GUU	טטט	GUU	AGC	CAG	UCA			
51	H12A(-10 + 10)	UCU	AUG	UAA	ACU	GAA	AAU	UU				
52	H12A(+11 + 30)	UUC	UGG	AGA	UCC	AUU	AAA	AC				
53	H13A(+77 + 100)	CAG	CAG	UUG	CGU	GAU	CUC	CAC	UAG			
54	H13A(+55 + 75)	UUC	AUC	AAC	UAC	CAC	CAC	CAU				
55	H13D(+06 - 19)	CUA	AGC	AAA	AUA	AUC	UGA	CCU	UAA	G		
56	H14A(+37 + 64)	CUU	GUA	AAA	GAA	CCC	AGC	GGU	CUU	CUG	U	
57	H14A(+14 + 35)	CAU	CUA	CAG	AUG	טטט	GCC	CAU	C			
58	H14A(+51 + 73)	GAA	GGA	UGU	CUU	GUA	AAA	GAA	CC			
59	H14D(-02 + 18)	ACC	UGU	UCU	UCA	GUA	AGA	CG				
60	H14D(+14 - 10)	CAU	GAC	ACA	CCU	GUU	CUU	CAG	UAA			
61	H14A(+61 + 80)	CAU	UUG	AGA	AGG	AUG	UCU	UG				
62	H14A(-12 + 12)	AUC	UCC	CAA	UAC	CUG	GAG	AAG	AGA			
63	H15A(-12 + 19)	GCC CAU		CAC	UAA	AAA	GGC	ACU	GCA	AGA		
64	H15A(+48 + 71)	UCU	UUA	AAG	CCA	GUU	GUG	UGA	AUC			
65	H15A(+08 + 28)	טטט	CUG	AAA	GCC	AUG	CAC	UAA				

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T". Brief Description of the Sequence listings

	Brief Descr	<u>ipti</u>	on o	f th	e Se	quen	<u>ce l</u>	<u>isti</u>	ngs			
SEQ II	SEQUENCE	NUC	LEOT:	IDE :	SEQUI	ENCE	(5'	-3')				
66	H15D(+17 - 08)	GUA	CAU	ACG	GCC	AGU	טטט	UGA	AGA	С		
67	H16A(-12 + 19)	CUA	GAU	CCG	CUU	UUA	AAA	CCU	GUU	AAA	ACA	Α
68	H16A(-06 + 25)	UCU GUU		CUA	GAU	CCG	CUU	UUA	AAA	CCU		
69	H16A(-06 + 19)	CUA	GAU	CCG	CUU	UUA	AAA	CCU	GUU	A		
70	H16A(+87 + 109)	CCG	UCU	UCU	GGG	UCA	CUG	ACU	UA			
71	H16A(-07 + 19)	CUA	GAU	CCG	CUU	UUA	AAA	CCU	GUU	AA		
72	H16A(-07 + 13)	CCG	CUU	UUA	AAA	CCU	GUU	AA				
73	H16A(+12 + 37)	UGG	AUU	GCU	טטט	UCU	טטט	CUA	GAU	CC		
74	H16A(+92 + 116)	CAU	GCU	UCC	GUC	UUC	UGG	GUC	ACU	G		
75	H16A(+45 + 67)	G A	יט טע	JG UI	JU GA	AG U	GA A	JA C	AG U			
76	H16A(+105 + 126)	GUU	AUC	CAG	CCA	UGC	UUC	CGU	C			
77	H16D(+05 - 20)	UGA	UAA	UUG	GUA	UCA	CUA	ACC	UGU	G		
78	H16D(+12 - 11)	GUA	UCA	CUA	ACC	UGU	GCU	GUA	C			
79	H19A(+35 + 53)	CUG	CUG	GCA	UCU	UGC	AGU	U				
80	H19A(+35 + 65)	GCC AGU		GCU	GAU	CUG	CUG	GCA	UCU	UGC		
81	H20A(+44 + 71)	CUG	GCA	GAA	UUC	GAU	CCA	CCG	GCU	GUU	С	
82	H20A(+147 + 168)	CAG	CAG	UAG	UUG	UCA	UCU	GCU	С			
83	H20A(+185 + 203)	UGA	UGG	GGU	GGU	GGG	UUG	G				
84	H20A(-08 + 17)	AUC	UGC	AUU	AAC	ACC	CUC	UAG	AAA	G		
85	H20A(+30 + 53)	CCG	GCU	GUU	CAG	UUG	UUC	UGA	GGC			
86	H20A(-11 + 17)	AUC	UGC	AUU	AAC	ACC	CUC	UAG	AAA	GAA	A	
87	H20D(+08 - 20)	GAA	GGA	GAA	GAG	AUU	CUU	ACC	UUA	CAA	A	
88	H20A(+44 + 63)	AUU	CGA	UCC	ACC	GGC	UGU	UC				
89	H20A(+149 + 168)	CAG	CAG	UAG	UUG	UCA	UCU	GC				
90	H21A(-06 + 16)	GCC	GGU	UGA	CUU	CAU	CCU	GUG	C			
91	H21A(+85 + 106)	CUG	CAU	CCA	GGA	ACA	UGG	GUC	C			
92	H21A(+85 + 108)	GUC	UGC	AUC	CAG	GAA	CAU	GGG	UC			
93	H21A(+08 + 31)	GUU	GAA	GAU	CUG	AUA	GCC	GGU	UGA			
94	H21D(+18 - 07)	UAC	UUA	CUG	UCU	GUA	GCU	CUU	UCU			
95	H22A(+22 + 45)	CAC	UCA	UGG	UCU	CCU	GAU	AGC	GCA			
96	H22A(+125 + 146)	CUG	CAA	UUC	CCC	GAG	UCU	CUG	С			
97	H22A(+47 + 69)	ACU	GCU	GGA	CCC	AUG	UCC	UGA	ŪG			
98	H22A(+80 + 101)	CUA	AGU	UGA	GGU	AUG	GAG	AGU				
99	H22D(+13 - 11)	UAU	UCA	CAG	ACC	UGC	AAU	UCC	CC			

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

Brief Description of the Sequence listings

	Briei Descr	1pt1	on o	I th	e se	quen	ce I	1St1	ngs	
SEQ II	SEQUENCE	NUCI	LEOT:	IDE :	SEQUI	ENCE	(5'-	-3')		
100	H23A(+34 + 59)	ACA	GUG	GUG	CUG	AGA	UAG	UAU	AGG	CC
101	H23A(+18 + 39)	UAG	GCC	ACU	UUG	UUG	CUC	UUG	C	
102	H23A(+72 + 90)	UUC	AGA	GGG	CGC	טטט	CUU	С		
103	H24A(+48 + 70)	GGG	CAG	GCC	AUU	CCU	CCU	UCA	GA	
104	H24A(-02 + 22)	UCU	UCA	GGG	טטט	GUA	UGU	GAU	UCU	
105	H25A(+9 + 36)	CUG	GGC	UGA	AUU	GUC	UGA	AUA	UCA	CUG
106	H25A(+131 + 156)	CUG	UUG	GCA	CAU	GUG	AUC	CCA	CUG	AG
107	H25D(+16 - 08)	GUC	UAU	ACC	UGU	UGG	CAC	AUG	UGA	
108	H26A(+132 + 156)	UGC	טטט	CUG	UAA	UUC	AUC	UGG	AGU	U
109	H26A(-07 + 19)	CCU	CCU	UUC	UGG	CAU	AGA	CCU	UCC	AC
110	H26A(+68 + 92)	UGU	GUC	AUC	CAU	UCG	UGC	AUC	UCU	G
111	H27A(+82 + 106)	UUA	AGG	CCU	CUU	GUG	CUA	CAG	GUG	G
112	H27A(-4 + 19)	GGG	CCU	CUU	CUU	UAG	CUC	UCU	GA	
113	H27D(+19 - 03)	GAC	UUC	CAA	AGU	CUU	GCA	טטט	C	
114	H28A(-05 + 19)	GCC	AAC	AUG	CCC	AAA	CUU	CCU	AAG	
115	H28A(+99 + 124)	CAG	AGA	טטט	CCU	CAG	CUC	CGC	CAG	GA
116	H28D(+16 - 05)	CUU	ACA	UCU	AGC	ACC	UCA	GAG		
117	H29A(+57 + 81)	UCC	GCC	AUC	UGU	UAG	GGU	CUG	UGC	С
118	H29A(+18 + 42)	AUU	UGG	GUU	AUC	CUC	UGA	AUG	UCG	С
119	H29D(+17 - 05)	CAU	ACC	UCU	UCA	UGU	AGU	UCC	C	
120	H30A(+122 + 147)	CAU	UUG	AGC	UGC	GUC	CAC	CUU	GUC	UG
121	H30A(+25 + 50)	UCC	UGG	GCA	GAC	UGG	AUG	CUC	UGU	UC
122	H30D(+19 - 04)	UUG	CCU	GGG	CUU	CCU	GAG	GCA	υυ	
123	H31D(+06 - 18)	UUC	UGA	AAU	AAC	AUA	UAC	CUG	UGC	
124	H31D(+03 - 22)	UAG	טטט	CUG	AAA	UAA	CAU	AUA	CCU	G
125	H31A(+05 + 25)	GAC	UUG	UCA	AAU	CAG	AUU	GGA		
126	H31D(+04 - 20)	GUU	UCU	GAA	AUA	ACA	UAU	ACC	UGU	
127	H32D(+04 - 16)	CAC	CAG	AAA	UAC	AUA	CCA	CA		
128	H32A(+151 + 170)	CAA	UGA	טטט	AGC	UGU	GAC	UG		
129	H32A(+10 + 32)	CGA	AAC	UUC	AUG	GAG	ACA	UCU	UG	
130	H32A(+49 + 73)	CUU	GUA	GAC	GCU	GCU	CAA	AAU	UGG	C
131	H33D(+09 - 11)	CAU	GCA	CAC	ACC	טטט	GCU	CC		
132	H33A(+53 + 76)	UCU	GUA	CAA	UCU	GAC	GUC	CAG	UCU	
133	H33A(+30 + 56)	GUC	טטט	AUC	ACC	AUU	UCC	ACU	UCA	GAC

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

Brief Description of the Sequence listings

	Brief Descr	<u>ipti</u>	on o	f th	e Se	quen	ce l	isti:	ngs	
SEQ II) SEQUENCE	NUCI	LEOT	IDE :	SEQUE	ENCE	(5'	-3')		
134	H33A(+64 + 88)	CCG	UCU	GCU	טטט	UCU	GUA	CAA	UCU	G
135	H34A(+83 + 104)	UCC	AUA	UCU	GUA	GCU	GCC	AGC	C	
136	H34A(+143 + 165)	CCA	GGC	AAC	UUC	AGA	AUC	CAA	AU	
137	H34A(-20 + 10)	טטט	CUG	UUA	CCU	GAA	AAG	AAU	UAU	AAU GAA
138	H34A(+46 + 70)	CAU	UCA	טטט	CCU	UUC	GCA	UCU	UAC	G
139	H34A(+95 + 120)	UGA	UCU	CUU	UGU	CAA	UUC	CAU	AUC	UG
140	H34D(+10 - 20)	UUC CAG	AGU	GAU	AUA	GGU	טטט	ACC	טטט	ccc
141	H34A(+72 + 96)	CUG	UAG	CUG	CCA	GCC	AUU	CUG	UCA	AG
142	H35A(+141 + 161)	UCU	UCU	GCU	CGG	GAG	GUG	ACA		
143	H35A(+116 + 135)	CCA	GUU	ACU	AUU	CAG	AAG	AC		
144	H35A(+24 + 43)	UCU	UCA	GGU	GCA	CCU	UCU	GU		
145	H36A(+26 + 50)	UGU	GAU	GUG	GUC	CAC	AUU	CUG	GUC	A
146	H36A(-02 + 18)	CCA	UGU	GUU	UCU	GGU	AUU	CC		
147	H37A(+26 + 50)	CGU	GUA	GAG	UCC	ACC	טטט	GGG	CGU	A
148	H37A(+82 + 105)	UAC	UAA	טטט	CCU	GCA	GUG	GUC	ACC	
149	H37A(+134 + 157)	UUC	UGU	GUG	AAA	UGG	CUG	CAA	AUC	
150	H38A(-01 + 19)	CCU	UCA	AAG	GAA	UGG	AGG	CC		
151	H38A(+59 + 83)	UGC	UGA	AUU	UCA	GCC	UCC	AGU	GGU	U
152	H38A(+88 + 112)	UGA	AGU	CUU	CCU	CUU	UCA	GAU	UCA	С
153	H39A(+62 + 85)	CUG	GCU	UUC	UCU	CAU	CUG	UGA	UUC	
154	H39A(+39 + 58)	GUU	GUA	AGU	UGU	CUC	CUC	UU		
155	H39A(+102 + 121)	UUG	UCU	GUA	ACA	GCU	GCU	GU		
156	H39D(+10 - 10)	GCU	CUA	AUA	CCU	UGA	GAG	CA		
157	H40A(-05 + 17)	CUU	UGA	GAC	CUC	AAA	UCC	UGU	υ	
158	H40A(+129 + 153)	CUU	UAU	טטט	CCU	UUC	AUC	UCU	GGG	С
159	H42A(-04 + 23)	AUC	GUU	UCU	UCA	CGG	ACA	GUG	UGC	UGG
160	H42A(+86 + 109)	GGG	CUU	GUG	AGA	CAU	GAG	UGA	טטט	
161	H42D(+19 - 02)	A C	ט טכ	CA G	AG G	AC U	CC U	כט טכ	ЭC	
162	H43D(+10 - 15)	UAU	GUG	UUA	CCU	ACC	CUU	GUC	GGU	С
163	H43A(+101 + 120)	GGA	GAG	AGC	UUC	CUG	UAG	CU		
164	H43A(+78 + 100)	UCA	CCC	טטט	CCA	CAG	GCG	UUG	CA	
165	H44A(+85 + 104)	טטט	GUG	UCU	UUC	UGA	GAA	AC		
166	H44D(+10 - 10)	AAA	GAC	UUA	CCU	UAA	GAU	AC		
167	H44A(-06 + 14)	AUC	UGU	CAA	AUC	GCC	UGC	AG		

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-O-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

Brief Description of the Sequence listings

	Brief Descr	ipti.	on o	I th	e se	quen	ce I	1ST 1:	ngs		
SEQ II	SEQUENCE	NUCI	LEOT	IDE :	SEQUE	ENCE	(5'	-3')			
168	H46D(+16 - 04)	UUA	CCU	UGA	CUU	GCU	CAA	GC			
169	H46A(+90 + 109)	UCC	AGG	UUC	AAG	UGG	GAU	AC			
170	H47A(+76 + 100)	GCU	CUU	CUG	GGC	UUA	UGG	GAG	CAC	U	
171	H47D(+25 - 02)	ACC	טטט	AUC	CAC	UGG	AGA	טטט	GUC	UGC	
172	H47A(-9 + 12)	UUC	CAC	CAG	UAA	CUG	AAA	CAG			
173	H50A(+02 + 30)	CCA	CUC	AGA	GCU	CAG	AUC	UUC	UAA	CUU	CC
174	H50A(+07 + 33)	CUU	CCA	CUC	AGA	GCU	CAG	AUC	UUC	UAA	
175	H50D(+07 - 18)	GGG	AUC	CAG	UAU	ACU	UAC	AGG	CUC	С	
176	H51A(-01 + 25)	ACC	AGA	GUA	ACA	GUC	UGA	GUA	GGA	GC	
177	H51D(+16 - 07)	CUC	AUA	CCU	טכט	GCU	UGA	UGA	ŪĊ		
178	H51A(+111 + 134)	UUC	UGU	CCA	AGC	CCG	GUU	GAA	AUC		
179	H51A(+61 + 90)	ACA UGG	UCA	AGG	AAG	AUG	GCA	טטט	CUA	GUU	
180	H51A(+66 + 90)	ACA	UCA	AGG	AAG	AUG	GCA	טטט	CUA	G	
181	H51A(+66 + 95)	CUC UAG	CAA	CAU	CAA	GGA	AGA	UGG	CAU	UUC	
182	H51D(+08 - 17)	AUC	AUU	טטט	UCU	CAU	ACC	UUC	UGC	U	
183	H51A/D(+08 - 17) & (-15+)		AUU CUA		UCU	CAU	ACC	UUC	UGC	UAG	
184	H51A(+175 + 195)	CAC	CCA	CCA	UCA	CCC	UCU	GUG			
185	H51A(+199 + 220)	AUC	AUC	UCG	UUG	AUA	UCC	UCA	A		
186	H52A(-07 + 14)	UCC	UGC	AUU	GUU	GCC	UGU	AAG			
187	H52A(+12 + 41)	UCC	AAC	UGG	GGA	CGC	CUC	UGU	UCC	AAA	
188	H52A(+17 + 37)	ACU	GGG	GAC	GCC	UCU	GUU	CCA			
189	H52A(+93 + 112)	CCG	UAA	UGA	UUG	UUC	UAG	CC			
190	H52D(+05 - 15)	UGU	UAA	AAA	ACU	UAC	UUC	GA			
191	H53A(+45 + 69)	CAU	UCA	ACU	GUU	GCC	UCC	GGU	UCU	G	
192	H53A(+39 + 62)	CUG	UUG	CCU	CCG	GUU	CUG	AAG	GUG		
193	H53A(+39 + 69)	CAU GGU		ACU	GUU	GCC	UCC	GGU	UCU	GAA	
194	H53D(+14 - 07)	UAC	UAA	CCU	UGG	טטט	CUG	UGA			
195	H53A(+23 + 47)	CUG	AAG	GUG	UUC	UUG	UAC	UUC	AUC	С	
196	H53A(+150 + 176)	UGU	AUA	GGG	ACC	CUC	CUU	CCA	UGA	CUC	
197	H53D(+20 - 05)	CUA	ACC	UUG	GUU	UCU	GUG	AUU	UUC	U	
198	H53D(+09 - 18)	GGU	AUC	טטט	GAU	ACU	AAC	CUU	GGU	UUC	
199	H53A(-12 + 10)	AUU	CUU	UCA	ACU	AGA	AUA	AAA	G		

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TABLE 1A-continued

Description of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA. Since these 2'-0-methyl antisense oligonucleotides are more RNA-like, U represents uracil. With other antisense chemistries such as peptide nucleic acids or morpholinos, these U bases may be shown as "T".

Brief Description of the Sequence listings

SEQ ID SEQUENCE			LEOT:	IDE :	SEQUE	ENCE	(5'-	-3')			
200	H53A(-07 + 18)	GAU	UCU	GAA	UUC	טטט	CAA	CUA	GAA	U	
201	H53A(+07 + 26)	AUC	CCA	CUG	AUU	CUG	AAU	UC			
202	H53A(+124 + 145)	UUG	GCU	CUG	GCC	UGU	CCU	AAG	A		
203	H46A(+86 + 115)	CUC AGC	טטט	UCC	AGG	UUC	AAG	UGG	GAU	ACU	
204	H46A(+107 + 137)	CAA UUC		טטט	CUU	UUA	GUU	GCU	GCU	CUU	
205	H46A(-10 + 20)	UAU AAG	UCU	טטט	GUU	CUU	CUA	GCC	UGG	AGA	
206	H46A(+50 + 77)	CUG	CUU	CCU	CCA	ACC	AUA	AAA	CAA	AUU	С
207	H45A(-06 + 20)	CCA	AUG	CCA	UCC	UGG	AGU	UCC	UGU	AA	
208	H45A(+91 + 110)	UCC	UGU	AGA	AUA	CUG	GCA	UC			
209	H45A(+125 + 151)	UGC	AGA	CCU	CCU	GCC	ACC	GCA	GAU	UCA	
210	H45D(+16 - 04)	CUA	CCU	CUU	טטט	UCU	GUC	UG			
211	H45A(+71 + 90)	UGU	טטט	UGA	GGA	UUG	CUG	AA			

TABLE 1B

Description of a cocktail of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA.

SEQ II	O SEQUENCE	NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')					
81	H20A(+44 + 71)	CUG GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU C					
82	H20A(+147 + 168)	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU					
80	H19A(+35 + 65)	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U					
81	H20A(+44 + 71)	CUG GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG					

TABLE 1B-continued

Description of a cocktail of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA.

	SEQ ID SEQUENCE			NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')						
	82	H20A(+147 + 168)	CAG C	CAG	UAG	UUG	UCA	UCU	GCU	
45	195	H53D(+14 - 07) H53A(+23 + 47) H53A(+150 + 176)	CUG AUC	AAG C AUA	GUG	UUC	UUG		UUC	

TABLE 1C

Description of a "weasel" of 2'-O-methyl phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA.

SEQ ID SEQUENCE	NUCELOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')
· · ·	CUG GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU C- CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU C
80 H19A(+35 + 65)-	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U
88 H20A(+44 + 63) - 79 H20A(+149 + 168)	-AUU CGA UCC ACC GGC UGU UC- CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U

Description of a "weasel" of 2'-0-methyl phosphorothicate antisense oligonucleotides that have been used to date to study induced exon skipping during the processing of the dystrophin pre-mRNA

SEQ ID SEQUENCE	NUCELOTIDE SEQUENCE (5'-3')					
80H19A(+35 + 65)-	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC					
88H20A(+44 + 63)	-AUU CGA UCC ACC GGC UGU UC-					
80H19A(+35 + 65)-	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U					
79H20A(+149 + 168)	-CUG CUG GCA UCU UGC AGU U					
138H34A(+46 + 70)-	CAU UCA UUU CCU UUC GCA UCU UAC G-					
139H34A(+94 + 120)	UGA UCU CUU UGU CAA UUC CAU AUC UG					
	UAG UUU CUG AAA UAA CAU AUA CCU G-					
144UU-	UU-					
H35A(+24 + 43)	UCU UCA GGU GCA CCU UCU GU					
195H53A(+23 + 47) - AA-	CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC C-					
196H53A(+150 + 176)-	UGU AUA GGG ACC CUC CUU CCA					
AA-	UGA CUC-AA-					
194H53D(+14 - 07)	UAC UAA CCU UGG UUU CUG UGA					
212Aimed at exons	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU CAA CUG					
19/20/20	GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU CAA					
	GCC UGA GCU GAU CUG CUC GCA UCU					
	UGC AGU					

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

General

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention described herein is susceptible to variations and modifications other than those specifically described. It is to be understood that the invention includes all such variation and modifications. The invention also includes all of the steps, features, 40 compositions and compounds referred to or indicated in the specification, individually or collectively and any and all combinations or any two or more of the steps or features.

The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments described herein, which are intended $\,^{45}$ for the purpose of exemplification only. Functionally equivalent products, compositions and methods are clearly within the scope of the invention as described herein.

Sequence identity numbers (SEQ ID NO:) containing nucleotide and amino acid sequence information included in this specification are collected at the end of the description and have been prepared using the programme Patentln Version 3.0. Each nucleotide or amino acid sequence is identified in the sequence listing by the numeric indicator <210> fol- 55 ents, patent applications, journal articles, laboratory manuals, lowed by the sequence identifier (e.g. <210>1, <210>2, etc.). The length, type of sequence and source organism for each nucleotide or amino acid sequence are indicated by information provided in the numeric indicator fields <211>, <212> and <213>, respectively. Nucleotide and amino acid 60 sequences referred to in the specification are defined by the information provided in numeric indicator field <400> followed by the sequence identifier (e.g. <400>1, <400>2, etc.).

An antisense molecules nomenclature system was proposed and published to distinguish between the different anti- 65 sense molecules (see Mann et al., (2002) J Gen Med 4, 644-654). This nomenclature became especially relevant when

testing several slightly different antisense molecules, all directed at the same target region, as shown below:

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H#A/D(x:y).

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The first letter designates the species (e.g. H: human, M: murine, C: canine)

"#" designates target dystrophin exon number.

"A/D" indicates acceptor or donor splice site at the beginning and end of the exon, respectively.

(xy) represents the annealing coordinates where "-" or "+" indicate intronic or exonic sequences respectively. As an example, A(-6+18) would indicate the last 6 bases of the intron preceding the target exon and the first 18 bases of the target exon. The closest splice site would be the acceptor so these coordinates would be preceded with an "A". Describing annealing coordinates at the donor splice site could be D(+2-18) where the last 2 exonic bases and the first 18 intronic bases correspond to the annealing site of the antisense molecule. Entirely exonic annealing coordinates that would be represented by A(+65+85), that is the site between the 65^{th} and 85^{th} nucleotide from the start of that exon.

The entire disclosures of all publications (including patbooks, or other documents) cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference. No admission is made that any of the references constitute prior art or are part of the common general knowledge of those working in the field to which this invention relates.

As used necessarily herein the term "derived" and "derived from" shall be taken to indicate that a specific integer may be obtained from a particular source albeit not directly from that source.

Throughout this specification, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the

inclusion of a stated integer or group of integers but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers.

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Other definitions for selected terms used herein may be found within the detailed description of the invention and apply throughout. Unless otherwise defined, all other scientific and technical terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention belongs.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

When antisense molecule(s) are targeted to nucleotide sequences involved in splicing in exons within pre-mRNA sequences, normal splicing of the exon may be inhibited 15 causing the splicing machinery to by-pass the entire mutated exon from the mature mRNA. The concept of antisense oligonucleotide induced exon skipping is shown in FIG. 2. In many genes, deletion of an entire exon would lead to the production of a non-functional protein through the loss of 20 important functional domains or the disruption of the reading frame. In some proteins, however, it is possible to shorten the protein by deleting one or more exons, without disrupting the reading frame, from within the protein without seriously altering the biological activity of the protein. Typically, such 25 proteins have a structural role and or possess functional domains at their ends. The present invention describes antisense molecules capable of binding to specified dystrophin pre-mRNA targets and re-directing processing of that gene. Antisense Molecules

According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided antisense molecules capable of binding to a selected target to induce exon skipping. To induce exon skipping in exons of the Dystrophin gene transcript, the antisense molecules are preferably selected from the group of compounds shown in Table 1A. There is also provided a combination or "cocktail" of two or more antisense oligonucleotides capable of binding to a selected target to induce exon skipping. To induce exon skipping in exons of the Dystrophin gene transcript, the antisense molecules in a "cocktail" are preferably selected from the group of compounds shown in Table 1B. Alternatively, exon skipping may be induced by antisense oligonucleotides joined together "weasels" preferably selected from the group of compounds shown in Table 1C.

Designing antisense molecules to completely mask consensus splice sites may not necessarily generate any skipping of the targeted exon. Furthermore, the inventors have discovered that size or length of the antisense oligonucleotide itself is not always a primary factor when designing antisense molecules. With some targets such as exon 19, antisense oligonucleotides as short as 12 bases were able to induce exon skipping, albeit not as efficiently as longer (20-31 bases) oligonucleotides. In some other targets, such as murine dystrophin exon 23, antisense oligonucleotides only 17 residues long were able to induce more efficient skipping than another overlapping compound of 25 nucleotides.

The inventors have also discovered that there does not appear to be any standard motif that can be blocked or masked by antisense molecules to redirect splicing. In some exons, such as mouse dystrophin exon 23, the donor splice site was 60 the most amenable to target to re-direct skipping of that exon. It should be noted that designing and testing a series of exon 23 specific antisense molecules to anneal to overlapping regions of the donor splice site showed considerable variation in the efficacy of induced exon skipping. As reported in Mann 65 et al., (2002) there was a significant variation in the efficiency of bypassing the nonsense mutation depending upon anti-

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sense oligonucleotide annealing ("Improved antisense oligonucleotide induced exon skipping in the mdx mouse model of muscular dystrophy". *J Gen Med* 4: 644-654). Targeting the acceptor site of exon 23 or several internal domains was not found to induce any consistent exon 23 skipping.

In other exons targeted for removal, masking the donor splice site did not induce any exon skipping. However, by directing antisense molecules to the acceptor splice site (human exon 8 as discussed below), strong and sustained exon skipping was induced. It should be noted that removal of human exon 8 was tightly linked with the co-removal of exon 9. There is no strong sequence homology between the exon 8 antisense oligonucleotides and corresponding regions of exon 9 so it does not appear to be a matter of cross reaction. Rather the splicing of these two exons is inextricably linked. This is not an isolated instance as the same effect is observed in canine cells where targeting exon 8 for removal also resulted in the skipping of exon 9. Targeting exon 23 for removal in the mouse dystrophin pre-mRNA also results in the frequent removal of exon 22 as well. This effect occurs in a dose dependent manner and also indicates close coordinated processing of 2 adjacent exons.

In other targeted exons, antisense molecules directed at the donor or acceptor splice sites did not induce exon skipping while annealing antisense molecules to intra-exonic regions (i.e. exon splicing enhancers within human dystrophin exon 6) was most efficient at inducing exon skipping. Some exons, both mouse and human exon 19 for example, are readily skipped by targeting antisense molecules to a variety of motifs. That is, targeted exon skipping is induced after using antisense oligonucleotides to mask donor and acceptor splice sites or exon splicing enhancers.

To identify and select antisense oligonucleotides suitable for use in the modulation of exon skipping, a nucleic acid sequence whose function is to be modulated must first be identified. This may be, for example, a gene (or mRNA transcribed form the gene) whose expression is associated with a particular disorder or disease state, or a nucleic acid molecule from an infectious agent. Within the context of the present invention, preferred target site(s) are those involved in mRNA splicing (i.e. splice donor sites, splice acceptor sites, or exonic splicing enhancer elements). Splicing branch points and exon recognition sequences or splice enhancers are also potential target sites for modulation of mRNA splicing.

Preferably, the present invention aims to provide antisense molecules capable of binding to a selected target in the dystrophin pre-mRNA to induce efficient and consistent exon skipping. Duchenne muscular dystrophy arises from mutations that preclude the synthesis of a functional dystrophin gene product. These Duchenne muscular dystrophy gene defects are typically nonsense mutations or genomic rearrangements such as deletions, duplications or micro-deletions or insertions that disrupt the reading frame. As the human dystrophin gene is a large and complex gene with the 79 exons being spliced together to generate a mature mRNA with an open reading frame of approximately 11,000 bases, there are many positions where these mutations can occur. Consequently, a comprehensive antisense oligonucleotide based therapy to address many of the different disease-causing mutations in the dystrophin gene will require that many exons can be targeted for removal during the splicing process.

Within the context of the present invention, preferred target site(s) are those involved in mRNA splicing (i.e. splice donor sites, splice acceptor sites or exonic splicing enhancer elements). Splicing branch points and exon recognition sequences or splice enhancers are also potential target sites for modulation of mRNA splicing.

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The oligonucleotide and the DNA or RNA are complementary to each other when a sufficient number of corresponding positions in each molecule are occupied by nucleotides which can hydrogen bond with each other. Thus, "specifically hybridisable" and "complementary" are terms which are used 5 to indicate a sufficient degree of complementarity or precise pairing such that stable and specific binding occurs between the oligonucleotide and the DNA or RNA target. It is understood in the art that the sequence of an antisense molecule need not be 100% complementary to that of its target sequence to be specifically hybridisable. An antisense molecule is specifically hybridisable when binding of the compound to the target DNA or RNA molecule interferes with the normal function of the target DNA or RNA to cause a loss of utility, and there is a sufficient degree of complementarity to 15 avoid non-specific binding of the antisense compound to nontarget sequences under conditions in which specific binding is desired, i.e., under physiological conditions in the case of in vivo assays or therapeutic treatment, and in the case of in vitro assays, under conditions in which the assays are performed. 20

While the above method may be used to select antisense molecules capable of deleting any exon from within a protein that is capable of being shortened without affecting its biological function, the exon deletion should not lead to a reading frame shift in the shortened transcribed mRNA. Thus, if in 25 a linear sequence of three exons the end of the first exon encodes two of three nucleotides in a codon and the next exon is deleted then the third exon in the linear sequence must start with a single nucleotide that is capable of completing the nucleotide triplet for a codon. If the third exon does not 30 commence with a single nucleotide there will be a reading frame shift that would lead to the generation of truncated or a non-functional protein.

It will be appreciated that the codon arrangements at the end of exons in structural proteins may not always break at the 35 end of a codon, consequently there may be a need to delete more than one exon from the pre-mRNA to ensure in-frame reading of the mRNA. In such circumstances, a plurality of antisense oligonucleotides may need to be selected by the method of the invention wherein each is directed to a different 40 region responsible for inducing splicing in the exons that are to be deleted.

The length of an antisense molecule may vary so long as it is capable of binding selectively to the intended location within the pre-mRNA molecule. The length of such 45 sequences can be determined in accordance with selection procedures described herein. Generally, the antisense molecule will be from about 10 nucleotides in length up to about 50 nucleotides in length. It will be appreciated however that any length of nucleotides within this range may be used in the 50 method. Preferably, the length of the antisense molecule is between 17 to 30 nucleotides in length.

In order to determine which exons can be connected in a dystrophin gene, reference should be made to an exon boundary map. Connection of one exon with another is based on the 55 exons possessing the same number at the 3' border as is present at the 5' border of the exon to which it is being connected. Therefore, if exon 7 were deleted, exon 6 must connect to either exons 12 or 18 to maintain the reading frame. Thus, antisense oligonucleotides would need to be 60 selected which redirected splicing for exons 7 to 11 in the first instance or exons 7 to 17 in the second instance. Another and somewhat simpler approach to restore the reading frame around an exon 7 deletion would be to remove the two flanking exons. Induction of exons 6 and 8 skipping should result 65 in an in-frame transcript with the splicing of exons 5 to 9. In practise however, targeting exon 8 for removal from the pre-

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mRNA results in the co-removal of exon 9 so the resultant transcript would have exon 5 joined to exon 10. The inclusion or exclusion of exon 9 does not alter the reading frame. Once the antisense molecules to be tested have been identified, they are prepared according to standard techniques known in the art. The most common method for producing antisense molecules is the methylation of the 2' hydroxyribose position and the incorporation of a phosphorothioate backbone produces molecules that superficially resemble RNA but that are much more resistant to nuclease degradation.

To avoid degradation of pre-mRNA during duplex formation with the antisense molecules, the antisense molecules used in the method may be adapted to minimise or prevent cleavage by endogenous RNase H. This property is highly preferred as the treatment of the RNA with the unmethylated oligonucleotides either intracellularly or in crude extracts that contain RNase H leads to degradation of the pre-mRNA: antisense oligonucleotide duplexes. Any form of modified antisense molecules that is capable of by-passing or not inducing such degradation may be used in the present method. An example of antisense molecules which when duplexed with RNA are not cleaved by cellular RNase H is 2'-O-methyl derivatives. 2'-O-methyl-oligoribonucleotides are very stable in a cellular environment and in animal tissues, and their duplexes with RNA have higher Tm values than their ribo- or deoxyribo-counterparts.

Antisense molecules that do not activate RNase H can be made in accordance with known techniques (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,149,797). Such antisense molecules, which may be deoxyribonucleotide or ribonucleotide sequences, simply contain any structural modification which sterically hinders or prevents binding of RNase H to a duplex molecule containing the oligonucleotide as one member thereof, which structural modification does not substantially hinder or disrupt duplex formation. Because the portions of the oligonucleotide involved in duplex formation are substantially different from those portions involved in RNase H binding thereto, numerous antisense molecules that do not activate RNase H are available. For example, such antisense molecules may be oligonucleotides wherein at least one, or all, of the inter-nucleotide bridging phosphate residues are modified phosphates, such as methyl phosphonates, methyl phosphorothioates, phosphoromorpholidates, phosphoropiperazidates and phosphoramidates. For example, every other one of the internucleotide bridging phosphate residues may be modified as described. In another non-limiting example, such antisense molecules are molecules wherein at least one, or all. of the nucleotides contain a 2' lower alkyl moiety (e.g., C₁-C₄, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl, such as methyl, ethyl, ethenyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, and isopropyl). For example, every other one of the nucleotides may be modified as described.

While antisense oligonucleotides are a preferred form of the antisense molecules, the present invention comprehends other oligomeric antisense molecules, including but not limited to oligonucleotide mimetics such as are described below.

Specific examples of preferred antisense compounds useful in this invention include oligonucleotides containing modified backbones or non-natural inter-nucleoside linkages. As defined in this specification, oligonucleotides having modified backbones include those that retain a phosphorus atom in the backbone and those that do not have a phosphorus atom in the backbone. For the purposes of this specification, and as sometimes referenced in the art, modified oligonucleotides that do not have a phosphorus atom in their internucleoside backbone can also be considered to be oligonucleosides.

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In other preferred oligonucleotide mimetics, both the sugar and the inter-nucleoside linkage, i.e., the backbone, of the nucleotide units are replaced with novel groups. The base units are maintained for hybridization with an appropriate nucleic acid target compound. One such oligomeric compound, an oligonucleotide mimetic that has been shown to have excellent hybridization properties, is referred to as a peptide nucleic acid (PNA). In PNA compounds, the sugarbackbone of an oligonucleotide is replaced with an amide containing backbone, in particular an aminoethylglycine 10 backbone. The nucleo-bases are retained and are bound directly or indirectly to aza nitrogen atoms of the amide portion of the backbone.

Modified oligonucleotides may also contain one or more substituted sugar moieties. Oligonucleotides may also 15 include nucleobase (often referred to in the art simply as "base") modifications or substitutions. Certain nucleo-bases are particularly useful for increasing the binding affinity of the oligomeric compounds of the invention. These include 5-substituted pyrimidines, 6-azapyrimidines and N-2, N-6 20 and O-6 substituted purines, including 2-aminopropyladenine, 5-propynyluracil and 5-propynylcytosine. 5-methylcytosine substitutions have been shown to increase nucleic acid duplex stability by 0.6-1.2° C. and are presently preferred base substitutions, even more particularly when combined with 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar modifications.

Another modification of the oligonucleotides of the invention involves chemically linking to the oligonucleotide one or more moieties or conjugates that enhance the activity, cellular distribution or cellular uptake of the oligonucleotide. Such 30 moieties include but are not limited to lipid moieties such as a cholesterol moiety, cholic acid, a thioether, e.g., hexyl-5-tritylthiol, a thiocholesterol, an aliphatic chain, e.g., dodecandiol or undecyl residues, a phospholipid, e.g., di-hexadecyl-rac-glycerol or triethylammonium 1,2-di-O-hexadecyl-rac-glycero-3-H-phosphonate, a polyamine or a polyethylene glycol chain, or adamantane acetic acid, a palmityl moiety, or an octadecylamine or hexylamino-carbonyl-oxycholesterol moiety.

It is not necessary for all positions in a given compound to 40 be uniformly modified, and in fact more than one of the aforementioned modifications may be incorporated in a single compound or even at a single nucleoside within an oligonucleotide. The present invention also includes antisense compounds that are chimeric compounds. "Chimeric" 45 antisense compounds or "chimeras," in the context of this invention, are antisense molecules, particularly oligonucleotides, which contain two or more chemically distinct regions, each made up of at least one monomer unit, i.e., a nucleotide in the case of an oligonucleotide compound. These 50 oligonucleotides typically contain at least one region wherein the oligonucleotide is modified so as to confer upon the increased resistance to nuclease degradation, increased cellular uptake, and an additional region for increased binding affinity for the target nucleic acid.

Methods of Manufacturing Antisense Molecules

The antisense molecules used in accordance with this invention may be conveniently and routinely made through the well-known technique of solid phase synthesis. Equipment for such synthesis is sold by several vendors including, 60 for example, Applied Biosystems (Foster City, Calif.). One method for synthesising oligonucleotides on a modified solid support is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,458,066.

Any other means for such synthesis known in the art may additionally or alternatively be employed. It is well known to 65 use similar techniques to prepare oligonucleotides such as the phosphorothioates and alkylated derivatives. In one such

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automated embodiment, diethyl-phosphoramidites are used as starting materials and may be synthesized as described by Beaucage, et al., (1981) *Tetrahedron Letters*, 22:1859-1862.

The antisense molecules of the invention are synthesised in vitro and do not include antisense compositions of biological origin, or genetic vector constructs designed to direct the in vivo synthesis of antisense molecules. The molecules of the invention may also be mixed, encapsulated, conjugated or otherwise associated with other molecules, molecule structures or mixtures of compounds, as for example, liposomes, receptor targeted molecules, oral, rectal, topical or other formulations, for assisting in uptake, distribution and/or absorption.

Therapeutic Agents

The present invention also can be used as a prophylactic or therapeutic, which may be utilised for the purpose of treatment of a genetic disease.

Accordingly, in one embodiment the present invention provides antisense molecules that bind to a selected target in the dystrophin pre-mRNA to induce efficient and consistent exon skipping described herein in a therapeutically effective amount admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

The phrase "pharmaceutically acceptable" refers to molecular entities and compositions that are physiologically tolerable and do not typically produce an allergic or similarly untoward reaction, such as gastric upset and the like, when administered to a patient. The term "carrier" refers to a diluent, adjuvant, excipient, or vehicle with which the compound is administered. Such pharmaceutical carriers can be sterile liquids, such as water and oils, including those of petroleum, animal, vegetable or synthetic origin, such as peanut oil, soybean oil, mineral oil, sesame oil and the like. Water or saline solutions and aqueous dextrose and glycerol solutions are preferably employed as carriers, particularly for injectable solutions. Suitable pharmaceutical carriers are described in Martin, *Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 18th Ed., Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa., (1990).

In a more specific form of the invention there are provided pharmaceutical compositions comprising therapeutically effective amounts of an antisense molecule together with pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, preservatives, solubilizers, emulsifiers, adjuvants and/or carriers. Such compositions include diluents of various buffer content (e.g., Tris-HCl, acetate, phosphate), pH and ionic strength and additives such as detergents and solubilizing agents (e.g., Tween 80, Polysorbate 80), anti-oxidants (e.g., ascorbic acid, sodium metabisulfite), preservatives (e.g., Thimersol, benzyl alcohol) and bulking substances (e.g., lactose, mannitol). The material may be incorporated into particulate preparations of polymeric compounds such as polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, etc. or into liposomes. Hylauronic acid may also be used. Such compositions may influence the physical state, 55 stability, rate of in vivo release, and rate of in vivo clearance of the present proteins and derivatives. See, e.g., Martin, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th Ed. (1990, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa. 18042) pages 1435-1712 that are herein incorporated by reference. The compositions may be prepared in liquid form, or may be in dried powder, such as lyophilised form.

It will be appreciated that pharmaceutical compositions provided according to the present invention may be administered by any means known in the art. Preferably, the pharmaceutical compositions for administration are administered by injection, orally, or by the pulmonary, or nasal route. The antisense molecules are more preferably delivered by intra-

29 venous, intra-arterial, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, or subcutaneous routes of administration.

Antisense Molecule Based Therapy

Also addressed by the present invention is the use of antisense molecules of the present invention, for manufacture of 5 a medicament for modulation of a genetic disease.

The delivery of a therapeutically useful amount of antisense molecules may be achieved by methods previously published. For example, intracellular delivery of the antisense molecule may be via a composition comprising an admixture 10 of the antisense molecule and an effective amount of a block copolymer. An example of this method is described in US patent application US 20040248833.

Other methods of delivery of antisense molecules to the nucleus are described in Mann C J et al., (2001) ["Antisense- 15 induced exon skipping and the synthesis of dystrophin in the mdx mouse". Proc., Natl. Acad. Science, 98(1) 42-47] and in Gebski et al., (2003). Human Molecular Genetics, 12(15):

A method for introducing a nucleic acid molecule into a 20 cell by way of an expression vector either as naked DNA or complexed to lipid carriers, is described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,806,084.

It may be desirable to deliver the antisense molecule in a colloidal dispersion system. Colloidal dispersion systems 25 include macromolecule complexes, nanocapsules, microspheres, beads, and lipid-based systems including oil-in-water emulsions, micelles, mixed micelles, and liposomes or liposome formulations.

Liposomes are artificial membrane vesicles which are useful as delivery vehicles in vitro and in vivo. These formulations may have net cationic, anionic or neutral charge characteristics and are useful characteristics with in vitro, in vivo and ex vivo delivery methods. It has been shown that large unilamellar vesicles (LUV), which range in size from 0.2- 35 4.0.PHI.m can encapsulate a substantial percentage of an aqueous buffer containing large macromolecules. RNA, and DNA can be encapsulated within the aqueous interior and be delivered to cells in a biologically active form (Fraley, et al., Trends Biochem. Sci., 6:77, 1981).

In order for a liposome to be an efficient gene transfer vehicle, the following characteristics should be present: (1) encapsulation of the antisense molecule of interest at high efficiency while not compromising their biological activity; (2) preferential and substantial binding to a target cell in 45 comparison to non-target cells; (3) delivery of the aqueous contents of the vesicle to the target cell cytoplasm at high efficiency; and (4) accurate and effective expression of genetic information (Mannino, et al., Biotechniques, 6:682, 1988).

The composition of the liposome is usually a combination of phospholipids, particularly high-phase-transition-temperature phospholipids, usually in combination with steroids, especially cholesterol. Other phospholipids or other lipids may also be used. The physical characteristics of liposomes 55 depend on pH, ionic strength, and the presence of divalent

Alternatively, the antisense construct may be combined with other pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents to produce a pharmaceutical composition. Suitable carriers and 60 diluents include isotonic saline solutions, for example phosphate-buffered saline. The composition may be formulated for parenteral, intramuscular, intravenous, subcutaneous, intraocular, oral or transdermal administration.

The routes of administration described are intended only as 65 a guide since a skilled practitioner will be able to determine readily the optimum route of administration and any dosage

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for any particular animal and condition. Multiple approaches for introducing functional new genetic material into cells, both in vitro and in vivo have been attempted (Friedmann (1989) Science, 244:1275-1280). These approaches include integration of the gene to be expressed into modified retroviruses (Friedmann (1989) supra; Rosenberg (1991) Cancer Research 51(18), suppl.: 5074S-5079S); integration into nonretrovirus vectors (Rosenfeld, et al. (1992) Cell, 68:143-155; Rosenfeld, et al. (1991) Science, 252:431-434); or delivery of a transgene linked to a heterologous promoter-enhancer element via liposomes (Friedmann (1989), supra; Brigham, et al. (1989) Am. J. Med. Sci., 298:278-281; Nabel, et al. (1990) Science, 249:1285-1288; Hazinski, et al. (1991) Am. J. Resp. Cell Molec. Biol., 4:206-209; and Wang and Huang (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA), 84:7851-7855); coupled to ligand-specific, cation-based transport systems (Wu and Wu (1988) J. Biol. Chem., 263:14621-14624) or the use of naked DNA, expression vectors (Nabel et al. (1990), supra); Wolff et al. (1990) Science, 247:1465-1468). Direct injection of transgenes into tissue produces only localized expression (Rosenfeld (1992) supra); Rosenfeld et al. (1991) supra; Brigham et al. (1989) supra; Nabel (1990) supra; and Hazinski et al. (1991) supra). The Brigham et al. group (Am. J. Med. Sci. (1989) 298:278-281 and Clinical Research (1991) 39 (abstract)) have reported in vivo transfection only of lungs of mice following either intravenous or intratracheal administration of a DNA liposome complex. An example of a review article of human gene therapy procedures is: Anderson, Science (1992) 256:808-813.

The antisense molecules of the invention encompass any pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, or salts of such esters, or any other compound which, upon administration to an animal including a human, is capable of providing (directly or indirectly) the biologically active metabolite or residue thereof. Accordingly, for example, the disclosure is also drawn to prodrugs and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of the invention, pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such pro-drugs, and other bioequivalents.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to 40 physiologically and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of the invention: i.e., salts that retain the desired biological activity of the parent compound and do not impart undesired toxicological effects thereto.

For oligonucleotides, preferred examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts include but are not limited to (a) salts formed with cations such as sodium, potassium, ammonium, magnesium, calcium, polyamines such as spermine and spermidine, etc.; (b) acid addition salts formed with inorganic acids, for example hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, nitric acid and the like; (c) salts formed with organic acids such as, for example, acetic acid, oxalic acid, tartaric acid, succinic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, gluconic acid, citric acid, malic acid, ascorbic acid, benzoic acid, tannic acid, palmitic acid, alginic acid, polyglutamic acid, naphthalenesulfonic acid, methanesulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, naphthalenedisulfonic acid, polygalacturonic acid, and the like; and (d) salts formed from elemental anions such as chlorine, bromine, and iodine. The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be administered in a number of ways depending upon whether local or systemic treatment is desired and upon the area to be treated. Administration may be topical (including ophthalmic and to mucous membranes including rectal delivery), pulmonary, e.g., by inhalation or insufflation of powders or aerosols, (including by nebulizer, intratracheal, intranasal, epidermal and transdermal), oral or parenteral. Parenteral administration includes intravenous, intra-arterial, subcutaneous, intra-

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peritoneal or intramuscular injection or infusion; or intracranial, e.g., intrathecal or intraventricular, administration. Oligonucleotides with at least one 2'-O-methoxyethyl modification are believed to be particularly useful for oral administration.

The pharmaceutical formulations of the present invention, which may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form, may be prepared according to conventional techniques well known in the pharmaceutical industry. Such techniques include the step of bringing into association the active ingredients with the pharmaceutical carrier(s) or excipient(s). In general the formulations are prepared by uniformly and intimately bringing into association the active ingredients with liquid carriers or finely divided solid carriers or both, and then, if necessary, shaping the product.

Kits of the Invention

The invention also provides kits for treatment of a patient with a genetic disease which kit comprises at least an antisense molecule, packaged in a suitable container, together 20 with instructions for its use.

In a preferred embodiment, the kits will contain at least one antisense molecule as shown in Table 1A, or a cocktail of antisense molecules as shown in Table 1B or a "weasel" compound as shown in Table 1C. The kits may also contain 25 peripheral reagents such as buffers, stabilizers, etc.

Those of ordinary skill in the field should appreciate that applications of the above method has wide application for identifying antisense molecules suitable for use in the treatment of many other diseases.

EXAMPLES

The following Examples serve to more fully describe the manner of using the above-described invention, as well as to 35 set forth the best modes contemplated for carrying out various aspects of the invention. It is understood that these Examples in no way serve to limit the true scope of this invention, but rather are presented for illustrative purposes. The references cited herein are expressly incorporated by reference.

Methods of molecular cloning, immunology and protein chemistry, which are not explicitly described in the following examples, are reported in the literature and are known by those skilled in the art. General texts that described conventional molecular biology, microbiology, and recombinant 45 DNA techniques within the skill of the art, included, for example: Sambrook et al., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1989); Glover ed., *DNA Cloning: A Practical Approach*, Volumes I and II, MRL Press, 50 Ltd., Oxford, U.K. (1985); and Ausubel, F., Brent, R., Kingston, R. E., Moore, D. D., Seidman, J. G., Smith, J. A., Struhl, K. *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*. Greene Publishing Associates/Wiley Intersciences, New York (2002).

Determining Induced Exon Skipping in Human Muscle Cells
Attempts by the inventors to develop a rational approach in
antisense molecules design were not completely successful as
there did not appear to be a consistent trend that could be
applied to all exons. As such, the identification of the most
effective and therefore most therapeutic antisense molecules
compounds has been the result of empirical studies.

These empirical studies involved the use of computer programs to identify motifs potentially involved in the splicing process. Other computer programs were also used to identify regions of the pre-mRNA which may not have had extensive 65 secondary structure and therefore potential sites for annealing of antisense molecules. Neither of these approaches proved

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completely reliable in designing antisense oligonucleotides for reliable and efficient induction of exon skipping.

Annealing sites on the human dystrophin pre-mRNA were selected for examination, initially based upon known or predicted motifs or regions involved in splicing. 20Me antisense oligonucleotides were designed to be complementary to the target sequences under investigation and were synthesised on an Expedite 8909 Nucleic Acid Synthesiser. Upon completion of synthesis, the oligonucleotides were cleaved from the support column and de-protected in ammonium hydroxide before being desalted. The quality of the oligonucleotide synthesis was monitored by the intensity of the trityl signals upon each deprotection step during the synthesis as detected in the synthesis log. The concentration of the antisense oligonucleotide was estimated by measuring the absorbance of a diluted aliquot at 260 nm.

Specified amounts of the antisense molecules were then tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in an in vitro assay, as described below.

Briefly, normal primary myoblast cultures were prepared from human muscle biopsies obtained after informed consent. The cells were propagated and allowed to differentiate into myotubes using standard culturing techniques. The cells were then transfected with the antisense oligonucleotides by delivery of the oligonucleotides to the cells as cationic lipoplexes, mixtures of antisense molecules or cationic liposome preparations.

The cells were then allowed to grow for another 24 hours, after which total RNA was extracted and molecular analysis commenced. Reverse transcriptase amplification (RT-PCR) was undertaken to study the targeted regions of the dystrophin pre-mRNA or induced exonic re-arrangements.

For example, in the testing of an antisense molecule for inducing exon 19 skipping the RT-PCR test scanned several sexons to detect involvement of any adjacent exons. For example, when inducing skipping of exon 19, RT-PCR was carried out with primers that amplified across exons 17 and 21. Amplifications of even larger products in this area (i.e. exons 13-26) were also carried out to ensure that there was minimal amplification bias for the shorter induced skipped transcript. Shorter or exon skipped products tend to be amplified more efficiently and may bias the estimated of the normal and induced transcript.

The sizes of the amplification reaction products were estimated on an agarose gel and compared against appropriate size standards. The final confirmation of identity of these products was carried out by direct DNA sequencing to establish that the correct or expected exon junctions have been maintained.

Once efficient exon skipping had been induced with one antisense molecule, subsequent overlapping antisense molecules may be synthesized and then evaluated in the assay as described above. Our definition of an efficient antisense molecule is one that induces strong and sustained exon skipping at transfection concentrations in the order of 300 nM or less. Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 8

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 8 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 3 shows differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 8 acceptor splice site. H8A(-06+18) [SEQ ID NO:1], which anneals to the last 6 bases of intron 7 and the first 18 bases of exon 8, induces substantial exon 8 and 9 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM. The shorter antisense molecule, H8A(-06+14) [SEQ ID NO: 4] was only able to induce exon 8 and 9 skipping at 300

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nM, a concentration some 15 fold higher than H8A(-06+18), which is the preferred antisense molecule.

This data shows that some particular antisense molecules induce efficient exon skipping while another antisense molecule, which targets a near-by or overlapping region, can be much less efficient. Titration studies show one compound is able to induce targeted exon skipping at 20 nM while the less efficient antisense molecules only induced exon skipping at concentrations of 300 nM and above. Therefore, we have shown that targeting of the antisense molecules to motifs involved in the splicing process plays a crucial role in the overall efficacy of that compound.

Efficacy refers to the ability to induce consistent skipping of a target exon. However, sometimes skipping of the target exons is consistently associated with a flanking exon. That is, we have found that the splicing of some exons is tightly linked. For example, in targeting exon 23 in the mouse model of muscular dystrophy with antisense molecules directed at the donor site of that exon, dystrophin transcripts missing exons 22 and 23 are frequently detected. As another example, when using an antisense molecule directed to exon 8 of the human dystrophin gene, all induced transcripts are missing both exons 8 and 9. Dystrophin transcripts missing only exon 8 are not observed.

H7A (
Tat ance)

Antis

An pared human dystrophin gene, all induced transcripts are missing above.

Table 2 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 8 (and 9) skipping.

TABLE 2

(SEQ ID NOS :	1-5, respectively, ir appearance)	order of
Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H8A(-06 + 18)	5'-GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG UAA	Very strong to 20 nM
H8A (-03 + 18)	5'-GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG	Very strong skipping to 40 nM
H8A(-07 + 18)	5'-GAU AGG UGG UAU CAA CAU CUG UAA G	Strong skipping to 40 nM
H8A(-06 + 14)	5'-GGU GGU AUC AAC AUC UGU AA	Skipping to 300 nM
H8A(-10 + 10)	5'-GUA UCA ACA UCU GUA AGC AC	Patchy/weak skipping to 100 nm

Table 2 (SEQ ID NOS 1-5, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 7

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 7 were pre- 5 pared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 4 shows the preferred antisense molecule, H7A(+45+67) [SEQ ID NO: 6], and another antisense molecule, H7A 6 (+2+26) [SEQ ID NO: 7], inducing exon 7 skipping. Nested amplification products span exons 3 to 9. Additional products above the induced transcript missing exon 7 arise from amplification from carry-over outer primers from the RT-PCR as well as heteroduplex formation.

Table 3 below discloses antisense molecule sequences for induced exon 7 skipping.

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TABLE 3

	(SEQ ID NOS	6-9, respectively, appearance)	in order of
5	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
10	H7A(+45 + 67)	5'-UGC AUG UUC CAG UCG UUG UGU GG	Strong skipping to 20 nM
	H7A(+02 + 26)	5'-CAC UAU UCC AGU CAA AUA GGU CUG G	
	H7D(+15 - 10)	5'-AUU UAC CAA CCU UCA GGA UCG AGU A	11 3
15	H7A(-18 + 03)	5'-GGC CUA AAA CAC AUA CAC AUA	Weak skipping to 300 nM

Table 3 (SEQ ID NOS 6-9, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 6

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 6 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 5 shows an example of two non-preferred antisense molecules inducing very low levels of exon 6 skipping in cultured human cells. Targeting this exon for specific removal was first undertaken during a study of the canine model using the oligonucleotides as listed in Table 4, below. Some of the human specific oligonucleotides were also evaluated, as shown in FIG. 5. In this example, both antisense molecules target the donor splice site and only induced low levels of exon 6 skipping. Both H6D(+4-21) [SEQ ID NO: 17] and H6D(+18-4) [SEQ ID NO: 18] would be regarded as non-preferred antisense molecules.

One antisense oligonucleotide that induced very efficient exon 6 skipping in the canine model, C6A(+69+91) [SEQ ID NO: 14], would anneal perfectly to the corresponding region in human dystrophin exon 6. This compound was evaluated, found to be highly efficient at inducing skipping of that target exon, as shown in FIG. 6 and is regarded as the preferred compound for induced exon 6 skipping. Table 4 below discloses antisense molecule sequences for induced exon 6 skipping.

TABLE 4

magnaghiral: in ander of

	(SEQ ID NOS 10-18, respectively, in order of appearance)					
0	Antisense Oligo name	Ability to Sequence induce skipping				
	C6A(-10 + 10)	5' CAU UUU UGA CCUNo skipping ACA UGU GG				
5	C6A(-14 + 06)	5' UUU GAC CUA CAUNo skipping GUG GAA AG				
	C6A(-14 + 12)	5' UAC AUU UUU GAC No skipping CUA CAU GUG GAA AG				
0	C6A(-13 + 09)	5' AUU UUU GAC CUANo skipping CAU GGG AAA G				
	CH6A(+69 + 91)	5' UAC GAG UUG AUUStrong skipping GUC GGA CCC AG to 20 nM				
5	C6D(+12 - 13)	5' GUG GUC UCC UUAWeak skipping at CCU AUG ACU GUG G 300 nM				

35
TABLE 4-continued

(SEQ ID NOS 10-18, respectively, in order of appearance)						
Antisense Oligo	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping	5			
C6D(+06 - 11)	5' GGU CUC CUU ACC UAU GA	No skipping				
H6D(+04 - 21)	5' UGU CUC AGU AA CUU CUU ACC UAU		10			
H6D(+18 - 04)	5' UCU UAC CUA UG CUA UGG AUG AGA	4	15			

Table 4 (SEQ ID NOS 10-18, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 4

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 4 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 7 shows an example of a preferred antisense molecule inducing skipping of exon 4 skipping in cultured human cells. In this example, one preferred antisense compound, H4A(+ 13+32) [SEQ ID NO:19], which targeted a presumed exonic splicing enhancer induced efficient exon skipping at a concentration of 20 nM while other non-preferred antisense oligonucleotides failed to induce even low levels of exon 4 skipping. Another preferred antisense molecule inducing skipping of exon 4 was H4A(+111+40) [SEQ ID NO:22], which induced efficient exon skipping at a concentration of 20 nM.

Table 5 below discloses antisense molecule sequences for inducing exon 4 skipping.

TABLE 5

	9, 22, 20, and 21, respe order of appearance)	ectively,
Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H4A(+13 + 32)	5' GCA UGA ACU CUU GUG GAU CC	Skipping to 20 nM
H4A(+11 + 40)	5'UGU UCA GGG CAU GAA CUC UUG UGG AUC CUU	Skipping to 20 nM
H4D(+04 - 16)	5' CCA GGG UAC UAC UUA CAU UA	No skipping
H4D(-24 - 44)	5' AUC GUG UGU CAC AGC AUC CAG	No skipping

Table 5 (SEQ ID NOS 19, 22, 20, and 21, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 3

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 3 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H3A(+30+60) [SEQ ID NO:23] induced substantial exon 3 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 65 nM to 600 nM. The antisense molecule, H3A(+35+65) [SEQ ID NO: 24] induced exon skipping at 300 nM.

36

Table 6 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 3 skipping.

TARLE 6

	(SEQ ID NOS	23-30, respectively, appearance)	in order of
)	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
	H3A(+30 + 60)	UAG GAG GCG CCU CCC AUC CUG UAG GUC ACU	
;	H3A(+35 + 65)	AGG UCU AGG AGG CGC CUC CCA UCC UGU AGG	
	H3A(+30 + 54)	GCG CCU CCC AUC CUG UAG GUC ACU G	Moderate 100-600 nM
)	H3D(+46 - 21)	CUU CGA GGA GGU CUA GGA GGC GCC UC	No skipping
	H3A(+30 + 50)	CUC CCA UCC UGU AGG UCA CUG	Moderate 20-600 nM
5	H3D(+19 - 03)	UAC CAG UUU UUG CCC UGU CAG G	No skipping
	H3A(-06 + 20)	UCA AUA UGC UGC UUCCCA AAC UGA AA	No skipping
)	H3A(+37 + 61)	CUA GGA GGC GCC UCC CAU CCU GUA G	No skipping

Table 6 (SEQ ID NOS 23-30, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 5

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 5 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H5A(+20+50) [SEQ ID NO:31] induces substantial exon 5 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM. Table 7 below shows other antisense molecules tested. The majority of these antisense molecules were not as effective at exon skipping as H5A(+20+50). However, H5A(+15+45) [SEQ ID NO: 40] was able to induce exon 5 skipping at 300 nM.

Table 7 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 5 skipping.

TABLE 7

	(SEQ ID NOS			espe aran	∍ly,	in order of
55	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequ	ıence	e		Ability to induce skipping
	H5A(+20 + 50)				CUU	Working to C 100 nM
60	H5D(+25 - 05)				UGG CAA	11 3
	H5D(+10 - 15)			GAU GUG	UAC	Inconsistent at 300 nM
65	H5A(+10 + 34)			CAG UCA	UUC	Very weak

2

60

37 TABLE 7-continued

(SEQ ID NOS	31-40, respectively, appearance)	in order of
Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H5D(-04 - 21)	ACC AUU CAU CAG GAU UCU	No skipping
H5D(+16 - 02)	ACC UGC CAG UGG AGG AUU	No skipping
H5A(-07 + 20)	CCA AUA UUC ACU AAA UCA ACC UGU UAA	No skipping
H5D(+18 - 12)	CAG GAU UCU UAC CUG CCA GUG GAG GAU UAU	No skipping
H5A(+05 + 35)	ACG AUG UCA GUA CUU CCA AUA UUC ACU AAA	No skipping U
H5A(+15 + 45)	AUU UCC AUC UAC GAU GUC AGU ACU UCC AAU	

Table 7 (SEQ ID NOS 31-40, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 10

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 10 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

H10A(-05+16) [SEQ ID NO:41] induced substantial exon 10 skipping when delivered into cells. Table 8 below shows other antisense molecules tested. The antisense molecules ability to induce exon skipping was variable. Table 8 below discloses antisense molecule sequences that induce exon 10 35 skipping.

TABLE 8

(SEQ ID NOS 4	1-45, respectively, appearance)	in order of
Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H10A(-05 + 16)	CAG GAG CUU CCA AA GCU GCA	AU Not tested
H10A(-05 + 24)	CUU GUC UUC AGG AC UUC CAA AUG CUG CA	
H10A(+98 + 119)	UCC UCA GCA GAA AC AGC CAC G	GA Not tested
H10A(+130 + 149)	UUA GAA AUC UCU CO UGU GC	CU No skipping
H10A(-33 - 14)	UAA AUU GGG UGU UA ACA AU	AC No skipping

Table 8 (SEQ ID NOS 41-45, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 11

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 11 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 8B shows an example of H11A(+75+97) [SEQ ID 65 NO:49] antisense molecule inducing exon 11 skipping in cultured human cells. H11A(+75+97) induced substantial

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exon 11 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM. Table 9 below shows other antisense molecules tested. The antisense molecules ability to induce exon skipping was observed at 100 nM.

,		7	ГАВІ	ıE 9)			
	(SEQ ID NOS 46-49		49, opeai			ively	, in orde	er of
10	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Seqi	ıence	e			Ability t induce skipping	
	H11D(+26 + 49)		UGA UUG		AUU	CCC	Skipping 100 nM	at
15	H11D(+11 - 09)	AGG UGU		UAC	UUG	CUU	Skipping 100 nM	at
	H11A(+118 + 140)		GAA AUC		AGG	AGA	Skipping 100 nM	at
20	H11A(+75 + 97)		CUU		AUA	AUU	Skipping 100 nM	at
	H11A(+75 + 97)		CUU		AUA	AUU	Skipping 5 nM	at

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 12

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 12 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

H12A(+52+75) [SEQ ID NO:50] induced substantial exon 12 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM, as shown in FIG. 8A. Table 10 below shows other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. The antisense molecules ability to induce exon skipping was variable.

TABLE 10

40	(SEQ ID NOS	50-52, respectively, i	n order of
45	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	s Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
43	H12A(+52 + 75)	UCU UCU GUU UUU GUU AGC CAG UCA	Skipping at 5 nM
50	H12A(-10 + 10)	UCU AUG UAA ACU GAA AAU UU	Skipping at 100 nM
30	H12A(+11 + 30)	UUC UGG AGA UCC AUU AAA AC	No skipping

Table 10 (SEQ ID NOS 50-52, respectively, in order of 55 appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 13

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 13 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

H13A(+77+100) [SEQ ID NO:53] induced substantial exon 13 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM. Table 11 below includes two other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. These other antisense molecules were unable to induce exon skipping.

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39 TABLE 11

(SEQ ID NOS 5:	3-55, respectively, appearance)	in order of
Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H13A(+77 + 100)	CAG CAG UUG CGU GA	AU Skipping at 5 nM
H13A(+55 + 75)	UUC AUC AAC UAC CA	AC No skipping
H13D(+06 - 19)	CUA AGC AAA AUA AU UGA CCU UAA G	JC No skipping

Table 11 (SEQ ID NOS 53-55, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 14

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 14 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H14A(+37+64) [SEQ ID NO:56] induced weak exon 14 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM. Table 12 below includes other antisense molecules tested ²⁵ at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. The other antisense molecules were unable to induce exon skipping at any of the concentrations tested.

TABLE 12

(SEQ ID NOS	56-62, respectively, appearance)	in order of
Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H14A(+37 + 64)	CUU GUA AAA GAA CC AGC GGU CUU CUG U	11 3
H14A(+14 + 35)	CAU CUA CAG AUG UU GCC CAU C	U No skipping
H14A(+51 + 73)	GAA GGA UGU CUU GU AAA GAA CC	A No skipping
H14D(-02 + 18)	ACC UGU UCU UCA GUA AGA CG	No skipping
H14D(+14 - 10)	CAU GAC ACA CCU GU CUU CAG UAA	U No skipping
H14A(+61 + 80)	CAU UUG AGA AGG AU UCU UG	G No skipping
H14A(-12 + 12)	AUC UCC CAA UAC CU GAG AAG AGA	G No skipping

40

Table 12 (SEQ ID NOS 56-62, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 15

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 15 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H15A(-12+19) [SEQ ID NO:63] and H15A(+48+71) [SEQ ID NO:64] induced substantial exon 15 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 Nm, as shown in FIG. 9A. Table 13 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 Nm. These other antisense molecules were unable to induce exon skipping at any of the concentrations tested.

TABLE 13

0		-65, 63, and 66, respe order of appearance)	ectively, in
	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
5	H15A(-12 + 19)	GCC AUG CAC UAA AAA GGC ACU GCA AGA CAU U	Skipping at 5 nM
	H15A(+48 + 71)	UCU UUA AAG CCA GUU GUG UGA AUC	Skipping at 5 nM
0	H15A(+08 + 28)	UUU CUG AAA GCC AUG CAC UAA	No skipping
	H15A(-12 + 19)	GCC AUG CAC UAA AAA GGC ACU GCA AGA CAU U	11 0
5	H15D(+17 - 08)	GUA CAU ACG GCC AGU UUU UGA AGA C	No skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 16

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 16 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above

H16A(-12+19) [SEQ ID NO:67] and H16A(-06+25)
45 [SEQ ID NO:68] induced substantial exon 16 skipping when
delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM, as shown in
FIG. 9B. Table 14 below includes other antisense molecules
tested. H16A(-06+19) [SEQ ID NO:69] and H16A(+87+
109) [SEQ ID NO:70] were tested at a concentration range of
50 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. These two antisense molecules were able to induce exon skipping at 25 nM and 100
nM, respectively. Additional antisense molecules were tested
at 100, 200 and 300 nM and did not result in any exon
skipping.

TABLE 14

(SEQ	ID NOS 67-78, respectively, in order appearance)	of
Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H16A(-12 + 19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AAA ACA A	Skipping at 5 nM

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TABLE 14-continued

(SEQ]	ID NOS 67-78, respectively, in order appearance)	of
Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H16A(-06 + 25)	UCU UUU CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU A	Skipping at 5 nM
H16A(-06 + 19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU A	Skipping at 25 nM
H16A(+87 + 109)	CCG UCU UCU GGG UCA CUG ACU UA	Skipping at 100 nM
H16A(-07 + 19)	CUA GAU CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AA	No skipping
H16A(-07 + 13)	CCG CUU UUA AAA CCU GUU AA	No skipping
H16A(+12 + 37)	UGG AUU GCU UUU UCU UUU CUA GAU CC	No skipping
H16A(+92 + 116)	CAU GCU UCC GUC UUC UGG GUC ACU G	No skipping
H16A(+45 + 67)	G AUC UUG UUU GAG UGA AUA CAG U	No skipping
H16A(+105 + 126)	GUU AUC CAG CCA UGC UUC CGU C	No skipping
H16D(+05 - 20)	UGA UAA UUG GUA UCA CUA ACC UGU G	No skipping
H16D(+12 - 11)	GUA UCA CUA ACC UGU GCU GUA C	No skipping

Table 14 (SEQ ID NOS 67-78, respectively, in order of 30 appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 19

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 19 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described 35 above

H19A(+35+65) [SEQ ID NO:79] induced substantial exon 19 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. This antisense molecule also showed very strong exon skipping at concentrations of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. 40

FIG. 10 illustrates exon 19 and 20 skipping using a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides, as tested using gel electrophoresis. It is interesting to note that it was not easy to induce exon 20 skipping using single antisense oligonucleotides H20A(+44+71) [SEQ ID NO:81] or H20A(+149+170) 45 [SEQ ID NO:82], as illustrated in sections 2 and 3 of the gel shown in FIG. 10. Whereas, a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides was more efficient as can be seen in section 4 of FIG. 10 using a "cocktail" of antisense oligonucleotides H20A(+44+71) and H20A(+149+170). When the cocktail 50 was used to target exon 19, skipping was even stronger (see section 5, FIG. 10).

FIG. 11 illustrates gel electrophoresis results of exon 19/20 skipping using "weasels" The "weasels" were effective in skipping exons 19 and 20 at concentrations of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. A further "weasel" sequence is shown in the last row of Table 3C. This compound should give good results. Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 20

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Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 20 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

None of the antisense oligonucleotides tested induced exon 20 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10, 25, 50, 300 or 600 nM (see Table 15). Antisense molecules H20A(-11+17) [SEQ ID NO:86] and H20D(+08-20) [SEQ ID NO:87] are yet to be tested.

However, a combination or "cocktail" of H20A(+44+71) [SEQ ID NO: 81] and H20A(+147+168) [SEQ ID NO:82] in a ratio of 1:1, exhibited very strong exon skipping at a concentration of 100 nM and 600 nM. Further, a combination of antisense molecules H19A(+35+65) [SEQ ID NO:80], H20A (+44+71) [SEQ ID NO:81] and H20A(+147+168) [SEQ ID NO:82] in a ratio of 2:1:1, induced very strong exon skipping at a concentration ranging from 10 nM to 600 nM.

TABLE 15

(SEQ ID NOS	81-87, 81-82, and 80-82, respectively, in appearance)	order of
Antisense Oligonucloetide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H20A(+44 + 71)	CUG GCA GAA UUC GAU CCA CCG GCU GUU C	No skipping
H20A(+147 + 168)	CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU C	No skipping
H20A(+185 + 203)	UGA UGG GGU GGU UUG G	No skipping
H20A(-08 + 17)	AUC UGC AUU AAC ACC CUC UAG AAA G	No skipping

TABLE 15-continued

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(SEQ ID NOS	81-87,	81-82,	and 8			pect	ivel	у, і:	n	order of
Antisense Oligonucloetide name	Sequen	ce								Ability to induce skipping
H20A(+30 + 53)	CCG GC	J GUU (CAG UU	UUC	UGA	GGC				No skipping
H20A(-11 + 17)	AUC UG	C AUU A	AAC AC	CUC	UAG	AAA	GAA	A		Not tested yet
H20D(+08 - 20)	GAA GG	A GAA (GAG AU	CUU	ACC	UUA	CAA	A		Not tested yet
H20A(+44 + 71) & H20A(+147 + 168)							GUU	С		Very strong skipping
H19A(+35 + 65): H20A(+44 + 71);	GCC UG.								U	Very strong skipping

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 21

H20A(+147 + 168) CAG CAG UAG UUG UCA UCU GCU C

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 21 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in 25 human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H21A(+85+108) [SEQ ID NO:92] and H21A(+85+106) [SEQ ID NO:91] induced exon 21 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 50 nM. Table 16 below 30 includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 5, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping

TABLE 16

(SEQ ID NOS	90-94, respectively, appearance)	in order of
Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H21A(-06 + 16)	GCC GGU UGA CUU CAU CCU GUG C	Skips at 600 nM
H21A(+85 + 106)	CUG CAU CCA GGA ACA UGG GUC C	Skips at 50 nM
H21A(+85 + 108)	GUC UGC AUC CAG GAA CAU GGG UC	Skips at 50 nM
H21A(+08 + 31)	GUU GAA GAU CUG AUA GCC GGU UGA	Skips faintly to

TABLE 16-continued

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	(SEQ ID NOS	90-94, respectively, appearance)	in order of
	Antisense Oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
)	H21D(+18 - 07)	UAC UUA CUG UCU GUA GCU CUU UCU	No skipping

Table 16 (SEQ ID NOS 90-94, respectively, in order of ³⁵ appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 22

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 22 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above

FIG. 12 illustrates differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 22 acceptor splice site. H22A(+ 125+106) [SEQ ID NO:96] and H22A(+80+101) [SEQ ID NO: 98] induce strong exon 22 skipping from 50 nM to 600 45 nM concentration.

H22A(+125+146) [SEQ ID NO:96] and H22A(+80+101) [SEQ ID NO:98] induced exon 22 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 50 nM. Table 17 below shows other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 17

(SEQ ID NOS 9	5-99	, re	spect	tive:	ly,	in o	rder	of	app	earanc	e)	
									ility (ipping	: 0	induce	
H22A(+22 + 45)	CAC	UCA	UGG	UCU	CCU	GAU	AGC	GCA	No	skipp	ing	
H22A(+125 + 146)	CUG	CAA	UUC	CCC	GAG	UCU	CUG	С	Ski	ipping	to	50 nM
H22A(+47 + 69)	ACU	GCU	GGA	CCC	AUG	UCC	UGA	UG	Ski	lpping	to	300 nl
H22A(+80 + 101)	CUA	AGU	UGA	GGU	AUG	GAG	AGU		Ski	lpping	to	50 nM
H22D(+13 - 11)	UAU	UCA	CAG	ACC	UGC	AAU	UCC	CC	No	skipp:	ing	

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Table 17 (SEQ ID NOS 95-99, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 23

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 23 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

Table 18 below shows antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed no ability to induce exon skipping or are yet to be tested.

TABLE 18

(SEQ ID NOS 100	-102, respectively,	in order of
	appearance)	
Antisense		Ability
oligonucleotide		to induce
name	Sequence	skipping
H23A(+34 + 59)	ACA GUG GUG CUG AGA	No skipping
	UAG UAU AGG CC	
77027 (· 10 · · 20)		27 - 62-11
H23A(+18 + 39)	UAG GCC ACU UUG	No Skipping
	UUG CUC UUG C	
H23A(+72 + 90)	UUC AGA GGG CGC UUU	No Skipping
	CUU C	

Table 18 (SEQ ID NOS 100-102, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 24

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 24 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 19 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 24 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 24 skipping.

TABLE 19

(SEQ ID NOS 103	3-104, respectivel appearance)	y, in order of
Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H24A(+48 + 70)	GGG CAG GCC AUU CCU CCU UCA GA	Needs testing
H24A(-02 + 22)	UCU UCA GGG UUU GUA UGU GAU UCU	Needs testing

Table 19 (SEQ ID NOS 103-104, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 25

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 25 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 20 below shows the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 65 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 25 skipping.

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TABLE 20

	(SEQ ID NOS 105-107, respectively, in order of appearance)						
	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequ	ıence	e			Ability to induce skipping
	H25A(+9 + 36)			UGA UCA		GUC	Needs testing
,	H25A(+131 + 156)			GCA CUG			Needs testing
	H25D(+16 - 08)			ACC UGA		UGG	Needs testing

Table 20 (SEQ ID NOS 105-107, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 26

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 26 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 21 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 26 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 26 skipping.

TABLE 21

	(SEQ ID NOS 1		LO, 1	_		vely	, in 01	rder of
30	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequ	ıence	e			Abilit induce skippi	•
	H26A(+132 + 156)		UUU UGG			טטכ	Needs	testing
35	H26A(-07 + 19)		CCU			CAU	Needs	testing
	H26A(+68 + 92)		GUC AUC				Faint at 600	skipping nM

Table 21 (SEQ ID NOS 108-110, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 27

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 27 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 22 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 27 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 27 skipping.

TABLE 22

(SEQ ID NOS 111-113, respectively, in order of appearance)				
Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping		
H27A(+82 + 106)	UUA AGG CCU CUU GUG CUA CAG GUG G	Needs testing		
H27A(-4 + 19)	GGG CCU CUU CUU UAG CUC UCU GA	Faint skipping at 600 and 300 nM		
H27D(+19 - 03)	GAC UUC CAA AGU CUU GCA UUU C	v. strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM		

Table 22 (SEQ ID NOS 111-113, respectively, in order of appearance)

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Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 28

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 28 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 23 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 28 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 28 skipping.

TABLE 23

(SEQ ID NOS 114-116, respectively, in order of appearance)					
Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping			
H28A(-05 + 19)	GCC AAC AUG CCC AAA CUU CCU AAG	3			
H28A(+99 + 124)	CAG AGA UUU CCU CAG CUC CGC CAG C	3			
H28D(+16 - 05)	CUU ACA UCU AGC ACC UCA GAG	v. strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM			

Table 23 (SEQ ID NOS 114-116, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 29

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 29 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 24 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 29 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 29 skipping.

TABLE 24

(SEQ ID NOS 1	17-119, respectiv appearance)	vely, in order of			
Antisense oligonucleotide Ability to induce name Sequence skipping					
H29A(+57 + 81)	UCC GCC AUC UGU UAG GGU CUG UGC C	Needs testing			
H29A(+18 + 42)		v. strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM			
H29D(+17 - 05)	CAU ACC UCU UCA UGU AGU UCC C	v. strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM			

Table 24 (SEQ ID NOS 117-119, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 30

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 30 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Table 25 below outlines the antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 65 30 that are yet to be tested for their ability to induce exon 30 skipping.

48

TABLE 25

(SEQ ID NOS 120-122, respectively, in order of appearance)						
	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequ	ıence	e		Ability to induce skipping
	H30A(+122 + 147)			AGC CUU		Needs testing UG
)	H30A(+25 + 50)					Very strong UCskipping at 600 and 300 nM.
;	H30D(+19 - 04)			GGG GCA		Very strong skipping at 600 and 300 nM.

Table 25 (SEQ ID NOS 120-122, respectively, in order of appearance)

20 Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 31

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 31 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 13 illustrates differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 31 acceptor splice site and a "cocktail" of exon 31 antisense oligonucleotides at varying concentrations. H31 D(+03-22) [SEQ ID NO:124] substantially induced exon 31 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM. Table 26 below also includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 26

(SEQ	ID	NOS	123-126,	respectively,	in	order	of	
appearance)								
Antisense								

)	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
	H31D(+06 - 18)	UUC UGA AAU AAC AUA UAC CUG UGC	Skipping to 300 nM
	H31D(+03 - 22)	UAG UUU CUG AAA UAA CAU AUA CCU G	Skipping to 20 nM
)	H31A(+05 + 25)	GAC UUG UCA AAU CAG AUU GGA	No skipping
	H31D(+04 - 20)	GUU UCU GAA AUA ACA UAU ACC UGU	Skipping to 300 nM

Table 26 (SEQ ID NOS 123-126, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 32

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 32 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H32D(+04-16) [SEQ ID NO:127] and H32A(+49+73) [SEQ ID NO:130] induced exon 32 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 300 nM. Table 27 below also shows other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules did not show an ability to induce exon skipping.

45

49 TABLE 27

50 TABLE 29

(SEQ ID NOS 1	27-130, respectiv appearance)	vely, in order of	
Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping	5
H32D(+04 - 16)	CAC CAG AAA UAC AUA CCA CA	Skipping to 300 nM	10
H32A(+151 + 170)	CAA UGA UUU AGC UGU GAC UG	No skipping	10
H32A(+10 + 32)	CGA AAC UUC AUG GAG ACA UCU UG	No skipping	15
H32A(+49 + 73)	CUU GUA GAC GCU GCU CAA AAU UGG C	Skipping to 300 nM	

Table 27 (SEQ ID NOS 127-130, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 33

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 33 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above

FIG. 14 shows differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 33 acceptor splice site. H33A(+64+ 30 88) [SEQ ID NO:134] substantially induced exon 33 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. Table 28 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100, 200 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 28

(SEQ ID NOS 1	31-134, respectiv	vely, in order of
Antisense oligonucleotide name	Ability to induce skipping	
H33D(+09 - 11)	CAU GCA CAC ACC UUU GCU CC	No skipping
H33A(+53 + 76)	UCU GUA CAA UCU GAC GUC CAG UCU	Skipping to 200 nM
H33A(+30 + 56)	GUC UUU AUC ACC AUU UCC ACU UCA GAC	Skipping to 200 nM
H33A(+64 + 88)	CCG UCU GCU UUU UCU GUA CAA UCU G	Skipping to 10 nM

Table 28 (SEQ ID NOS 131-134, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 34

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 34 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

Table 29 below includes antisense molecules tested at a $_{65}$ concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed a variable ability to induce exon skipping.

	(SEQ ID NOS 135-141, respectively, in order of appearance)						
	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping				
	H34A(+83 + 104)	UCC AUA UCU GUA GCU GCC AGC C	No skipping				
)	H34A(+143 + 165)	CCA GGC AAC UUC AGA AUC CAA AU	No skipping				
5	H34A(-20 + 10)	UUU CUG UUA CCU GAA AAG AAU UAU AAU GAA	Not tested				
	H34A(+46 + 70)	CAU UCA UUU CCU UUC GCA UCU UAC G					
)	H34A(+95 + 120)	UGA UCU CUU UGU CAA UUC CAU AUC UG					
_	H34D(+10 - 20)	UUC AGU GAU AUA GGU UUU ACC UUU CCC CAG	Not tested				
,	H34A(+72 + 96)	CUG UAG CUG CCA GCC AUU CUG UCA AG	No skipping				

Table 29 (SEQ ID NOS 135-141, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 35

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 35 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 15 shows differing efficiencies of antisense molecules directed at exon 35 acceptor splice site. H35A(+24+43) [SEQ ID NO:144] substantially induced exon 35 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 20 nM. Table 30 below also includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration of 100 and 300 nM. These antisense molecules showed no ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 30

	(SEQ ID NOS 1	42-144, respectiv appearance)	ely, in order of
0	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
	H35A(+141 + 161)	UCU UCU GCU CGG GAG GUG ACA	Skipping to 20 nM
5	H35A(+116 + 135)	CCA GUU ACU AUU CAG AAG AC	No skipping
	H35A(+24 + 43)	UCU UCA GGU GCA CCU UCU GU	No skipping

Table 30 (SEQ ID NOS 142-144, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 36

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 36 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

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Antisense molecule H36A(+26+50) [SEQ ID NO:145] induced exon 36 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 300 nM, as shown in FIG. 16.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 37

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 37 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above

FIG. 17 shows differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 37 acceptor splice site. H37A(+82+ 105) [SEQ ID NO:148] and H37A(+134+157) [SEQ ID NO:149] substantially induced exon 37 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. Table 31 below 15 shows the antisense molecules tested.

TABLE 31

(SEQ ID NOS 147-149, respectively, in order of appearance)							
Antisense oligonucleotide Ability to induce name Sequence skipping							
H37A(+26 + 50)	CGU GUA GAG UCC ACC UUU GGG CGU A	No skipping					
H37A(+82 + 105)	UAC UAA UUU CCU GCA GUG GUC ACC	11 0					
H37A(+134 + 157)	UUC UGU GUG AAA UGG CUG CAA AUC						

Table 31 (SEQ ID NOS 147-149, respectively, in order of 35 appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 38

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 38 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in 40 human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. **18** illustrates antisense molecule H38A(+88+112) [SEQ ID NO:152], directed at exon 38 acceptor splice site. H38A(+88+112) substantially induced exon 38 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 10 nM. Table 32 below shows the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 32

(SEQ ID NOS 150-152, respectively, in order of appearance)					
Antisense oligonucleotide Ability to ind name Sequence skipping					
H38A(-01 + 19)	CCU UCA AAG GAA UGG AGG CC	No skipping			
H38A(+59 + 83)	UGC UGA AUU UCA GCC UCC AGU GGU U	Skipping to 10 nM			
H38A(+88 + 112)	UGA AGU CUU CCU CUU UCA GAU UCA C	Skipping to 10 nM			

52

Table 32 (SEQ ID NOS 150-152, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 39

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 39 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

H39A(+62+85) [SEQ ID NO:153] induced exon 39 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM. Table 33 below shows the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon skipping.

TABLE 33

;	(SEQ ID NOS 153-156, respectively, in order of appearance)						
	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping				
)	H39A(+62 + 85)	CUG GCU UUC UCU CAU CUG UGA UUC	Skipping to 100 nM				
	H39A(+39 + 58)	GUU GUA AGU UGU CUC CUC UU	No skipping				
;	H39A(+102 + 121)	UUG UCU GUA ACA GCU GCU GU	No skipping				
	H39D(+10 - 10)	GCU CUA AUA CCU UGA GAG CA	Skipping to 300 nM				

Table 33 (SEQ ID NOS 153-156, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 40

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 40 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. **19** illustrates antisense molecule H40A(-05+17) [SEQ ID NO:157] directed at exon 40 acceptor splice site. H40A(-05+17) and H40A(+129+153) [SEQ ID NO:158] both substantially induced exon 40 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 42

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 42 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 20 illustrates antisense molecule H42A(-04+23) [SEQ ID NO:159], directed at exon 42 acceptor splice site. H42A(-4+23) and H42D(+19-02) [SEQ ID NO:161] both induced exon 42 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 5 nM. Table 34 below shows the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon 42 skipping.

TABLE 34

55	(SEQ ID NOS 1	59-160, respectiv appearance)	ely, in order of
	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
50	H42A(-4 + 23)	AUC GUU UCU UCA CGG ACA GUG UGC UGG	Skipping to 5 nM
	H42A(+86 + 109)	GGG CUU GUG AGA CAU GAG UGA UUU	
55	H42D(+19 - 02)	A CCU UCA GAG GAC UCC UCU UGC	Skipping to 5 nM

53

Table 34 (SEQ ID NOS 159-160, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 43

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 43 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in 5 human muscle cells using similar methods as described

H43A(+101+120) [SEQ ID NO:163] induced exon 43 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 25 nM. Table 35 below includes the antisense molecules tested and their ability to induce exon 43 skipping.

TABLE 35

(SEQ ID NOS 162-164, respectively, in order of appearance)						
Antisense oligonucleotide Ability to induce name Sequence skipping						
H43D(+10 - 15)	UAU GUG UUA CCU ACC CUU GUC GGU C	11 3				
H43A(+101 + 120)	GGA GAG AGC UUC CUG UAG CU	Skipping to 25 nM				
H43A(+78 + 100)	UCA CCC UUU CCA CAG GCG UUG CA	11 5				

Table 35 (SEQ ID NOS 162-164, respectively, in order of $_{30}$ Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 47 appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 44

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 44 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Testing for the ability of these antisense molecules to induce exon 44 skipping is still in progress. The antisense molecules under review are shown as SEQ ID Nos: 165 to 167 in Table 1A. Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 45

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 45 were prepared using similar methods as described above. Testing for the ability of these antisense molecules to induce exon 45 skipping is still in progress. The antisense molecules under review are shown as SEQ ID Nos: 207 to 211 in Table 1A. Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 46

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 46 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 21 illustrates the efficiency of one antisense molecule directed at exon 46 acceptor splice site. Antisense oligonucleotide H46A(+86+115) [SEQ ID NO:203] showed very strong ability to induce exon 46 skipping. Table 36 below includes antisense molecules tested. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 46 skipping.

TABLE 36

(SEQ ID NOS 168-169 and 203-206, respectively, in order of appearance)					
Antisense oligonucleotide Ability to induce name Sequence skipping					
H46D(+16 - 04)	UUA CCU UGA CUU GCU CAA GC	No skipping			
H46A(+90 + 109)	UCC AGG UUC AAG UGG GAU AC	No skipping			

54 TABLE 36-continued

· -	8-169 and 203-206 order of appeara		
Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce	
H46A(+86 + 115)	CUC UUU UCC AGG UUC AAG UGG GAU ACU AGC		
H46A(+107 + 137)	CAA GCU UUU CUU UUA GUU GCU GCU CUU UUC C		
H46A(-10 + 20)	UAU UCU UUU GUU CUU CUA GCC UGG AGA AAG	Weak skipping	
H46A(+50 + 77)	CUG CUU CCU CCA ACC AUA AAA CAA AUU C	Weak skipping	

Table 36 (SEQ ID NOS 168-169 and 203-206, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 47 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

H47A(+76+100) [SEQ ID NO:170] and H47A(-09+12) [SEQ ID NO:172] both induced exon 47 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 200 nM. H47D(+25-02) [SEQ ID NO: 171] is yet to be prepared and tested.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 50

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 50 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

Antisense oligonucleotide molecule HSO(+02+30) [SEQ ID NO: 173] was a strong inducer of exon skipping. Further, HSOA(+07+33) [SEQ ID NO:174] and H50D(+07-18) [SEQ ID NO:175] both induced exon 50 skipping when delivered into cells at a concentration of 100 nM.

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 51

55

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 51 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 22 illustrates differing efficiencies of two antisense molecules directed at exon 51 acceptor splice site. Antisense oligonucleotide H51A(+66+90) [SEQ ID NO:180] showed the stronger ability to induce exon 51 skipping. Table 37 below includes antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 25, 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon skipping. The 65 strongest inducers of exon skipping were antisense oligonucleotide H51A(+61+90) [SEQ ID NO: 179] and H51A(+ 66+95) [SEQ ID NO: 179].

60

65

55 TABLE 37

56 TABLE 38-continued

(SEQ ID NOS 176-185, respectively, in order of appearance)				
Antisense oligonucleotide name	Ability to induce skipping			
H51A(-01 + 25)	ACC AGA GUA ACA GUC UGA GUA GGA GC			
H51D(+16 - 07)	CUC AUA CCU UCU GCU UGA UGA UC	Skipping at 300 nM		
H51A(+111 + 134)	UUC UGU CCA AGC CCG GUU GAA AUC	Needs re- testing		
H51A(+61 + 90)	ACA UCA AGG AAG AUG GCA UUU CUA GUU UGG			
H51A(+66 + 90)	ACA UCA AGG AAG AUG GCA UUU CUA G	skipping		
H51A(+66 + 95)	CUC CAA CAU CAA GGA AGA UGG CAU UUC UAG			
H51D(+08 - 17)	AUC AUU UUU UCU CAU ACC UUC UGC U	No skipping		
H51A/D(+08 - 17) & (-15 + ?)	AUC AUU UUU UCU CAU ACC UUC UGC UAG GAG CUA AAA	No skipping		
H51A(+175 + 195)	CAC CCA CCA UCA	No skipping		
H51A(+199 + 220)	AUC AUC UCG UUG AUA UCC UCA A	No skipping		

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 52

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 52 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in 40 human muscle cells using similar methods as described above.

FIG. 22 also shows differing efficiencies of four antisense molecules directed at exon 52 acceptor splice site. The most effective antisense oligonucleotide for inducing exon 52 skip- 45 ping was H52A(+17+37) [SEQ ID NO:188].

Table 38 below shows antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 50 skipping. Antisense molecules H52A(+12+41) [SEQ ID NO:187] and 50 H52A(+17+37) [SEQ ID NO:188] showed the strongest exon 50 skipping at a concentration of 50 nM.

(SEQ ID NOS 186-190, respectively, in order of

TABLE 38

appearance;				
Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping		
H52A(-07 + 14)	UCC UGC AUU GUU GCC UGU AAG	No skipping		
H52A(+12 + 41)	UCC AAC UGG GGA CGC CUC UGU UCC AAA UCC			

	(SEQ ID NOS 1	186-190, respectiv appearance)	vely, in order of
5	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
10	H52A(+17 + 37)	ACU GGG GAC GCC UCU GUU CCA	Skipping to 50 nM
10	H52A(+93 + 112)	CCG UAA UGA UUG UUC UAG CC	No skipping
	H52D(+05 - 15)	UGU UAA AAA ACU UAC UUC GA	No skipping
15			-

Table 38 (SEQ ID NOS 186-190, respectively, in order of appearance)

Antisense Oligonucleotides Directed at Exon 53

Antisense oligonucleotides directed at exon 53 were prepared and tested for their ability to induce exon skipping in human muscle cells using similar methods as described

FIG. 22 also shows antisense molecule H53A(+39+69) [SEQ ID NO:193] directed at exon 53 acceptor splice site. This antisense oligonucleotide was able to induce exon 53 skipping at 5, 100, 300 and 600 nM. A "cocktail" of three exon 53 antisense oligonucleotides: H53A(+23+47) [SEQ ID NO:195], H53A(+150+176) [SEQ ID NO:196] and H53D (+14-07) [SEQ ID NO:194], was also tested, as shown in FIG. 20 and exhibited an ability to induce exon skipping.

Table 39 below includes other antisense molecules tested at a concentration range of 50, 100, 300 and 600 nM. These antisense molecules showed varying ability to induce exon 53 skipping. Antisense molecule H53A(+39+69) [SEQ ID NO:193] induced the strongest exon 53 skipping.

TABLE 39

)	(SEQ ID NOS 191-202, respectively, in order of appearance)						
5	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Ability to induce skipping					
	H53A(+45 + 69)	CAU UCA ACU GUU GCC UCC GGU UCU G					
)	H53A(+39 + 62)	CUG UUG CCU CCG GUU CUG AAG GUG					
	H53A(+39 + 69)	CAU UCA ACU GUU GCC UCC GGU UCU GAA GGU G	3 11 3				
5	H53D(+14 - 07)	UAC UAA CCU UGG UUU CUG UGA	Very faint skipping to 50 nM				
	H53A(+23 + 47)	CUG AAG GUG UUC UUG UAC UUC AUC C	Very faint skipping to 50 nM				
)	H53A(+150 + 176)	UGU AUA GGG ACC CUC CUU CCA UGA CUC	Very faint skipping to 50 nM				
5	H53D(+20 - 05)	CUA ACC UUG GUU UCU GUG AUU UUC U	Not made yet				

<400> SEQUENCE: 4

	57				58	
TABLE 39-continued					nued	
(SEQ ID NOS 191-202, respectively, in order of appearance)				(SEQ ID NOS	191-202, respecti [,] appearance)	vely, in order of
Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping	5	Antisense oligonucleotide name	Sequence	Ability to induce skipping
H53D(+09 - 18)	GGU AUC UUU GAU ACU AAC CUU GGU UUC	Faint at 600 nM	10	H53A(+07 + 26)	AUC CCA CUG AUU CUG AAU UC	No skipping
H53A(-12 + 10)	AUU CUU UCA ACU AGA AUA AAA G	No skipping		H53A(+124 + 145) UUG GCU CUG GCC UGU CCU AAG A	No skipping
H53A(-07 + 18)	GAU UCU GAA UUC UUU CAA CUA GAA U	No skipping	15	Table 39 (SEQ appearance)	ID NOS 191-202, r	espectively, in order o
		SEQUENCE LISTING				
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127 128

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The claims defining the invention are as follows:

- 1. An isolated antisense oligonucleotide of 20 to 50 nucleotides in length comprising at least 20 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:193, wherein the oligonucleotide specifically hybridizes to an exon 53 target region of the human dystrophin gene inducing exon 53 skipping, and wherein the uracil bases are optionally thymine bases.
- 2. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising 55 SEO ID NO:193.
- 3. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1 consisting of SEQ ID NO:193.
- **4**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **1** comprising 20-31 nucleotides in length.
- 5. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide does not activate RNase H.
- **6**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **1**, comprising a non-natural backbone.
- 7. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the 65 sugar moieties of the oligonucleotide backbone are replaced with non-natural moieties.

- **8**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **7**, wherein the non-natural moieties are morpholinos.
- 9. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the inter-nucleotide linkages of the oligonucleotide backbone are replaced with non-natural inter-nucleotide linkages.
- 10. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 9, wherein the non-natural inter-nucleotide linkages are modified phosphates.
- 11. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the sugar moieties of the oligonucleotide backbone are replaced with non-natural moieties and the inter-nucleotide linkages of the oligonucleotide backbone are replaced with non-natural oi inter-nucleotide linkages.
 - 12. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 11, wherein the non-natural moieties are morpholinos and the non-natural internucleotide linkages are modified phosphates.
 - 13. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 12, wherein the modified phosphates are methyl phosphonates, methyl phosphorothioates, phosphoromorpholidates, phosphoropiperazidates or phosphoroamidates.

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- **14**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **1**, wherein the oligonucleotide is a 2'-O-methyl-oligoribonucleotide.
- 15. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide is a peptide nucleic acid.
- 16. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide is chemically linked to one or more moieties or conjugates that enhance the activity, cellular distribution, or cellular uptake of the antisense oligonucleotide.
- 17. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 16, wherein the oligonucleotide is conjugated to a polyamine.
- 18. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 16, wherein the oligonucleotide is chemically linked to a polyethylene glycol chain
- 19. An isolated antisense oligonucleotide of 20 to 50 nucleotides in length comprising at least 20 consecutive nucleotides complementary to an exon 53 target region of the human dystrophin gene designated as annealing site H53A(+39+69), wherein the antisense oligonucleotide specifically hybridizes to the annealing site inducing exon 53 skipping, and wherein uracil bases in the antisense oligonucleotide are optionally thymine bases.
- **20**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **19** comprising 20-31 nucleotides in length.
- 21. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 19, wherein the uracil bases are thymine.
- 22. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 19, wherein the oligonucleotide does not activate RNase H.
- 23. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 19, comprising a non-natural backbone.
- **24**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **19**, wherein the sugar moieties of the oligonucleotide backbone are replaced with non-natural moieties.
- 25. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 24, wherein the non-natural moieties are morpholinos.
- **26**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **19**, wherein the inter-nucleotide linkages of the oligonucleotide backbone are replaced with non-natural inter-nucleotide linkages.
- 27. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 26, wherein the non-natural inter-nucleotide linkages are modified phosphates.
- 28. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 19, wherein the sugar moieties of the oligonucleotide backbone are replaced with non-natural moieties and the inter-nucleotide linkages of the oligonucleotide backbone are replaced with non-natural inter-nucleotide linkages.

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- 29. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 28, wherein the non-natural moieties are morpholinos and the non-natural internucleotide linkages are modified phosphates.
- **30**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **29**, wherein the modified phosphates are methyl phosphonates, methyl phosphorothioates, phosphoromorpholidates, phosphoropiperazidates or phosphoroamidates.
- **31**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **19**, wherein the oligonucleotide is a 2'-O-methyl-oligoribonucleotide.
- 32. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 19, wherein the oligonucleotide is a peptide nucleic acid.
- 33. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 19, wherein the oligonucleotide is chemically linked to one or more moieties or conjugates that enhance the activity, cellular distribution, or cellular uptake of the antisense oligonucleotide.
- **34**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **33**, wherein the oligonucleotide is conjugated to a polyamine.
- 35. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 33, wherein the oligonucleotide is chemically linked to a polyethylene glycol chain.
 - **36**. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising an antisense oligonucleotide of claim **1**, and a saline solution that includes a phosphate buffer.
- **37**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim **1**, wherein the uracil bases are thymine bases.
- **38**. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1, comprising SEQ ID NO:193, wherein the uracil bases are thymine bases.
- **39**. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising an antisense oligonucleotide of claim **2**, and a saline solution that includes a phosphate buffer.
- **40**. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising an antisense oligonucleotide of claim **3**, and a saline solution that includes a phosphate buffer.
- **41**. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising an antisense oligonucleotide of claim **19**, and a saline solution that includes a phosphate buffer.
- **42**. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising an antisense oligonucleotide of claim **38**, and a saline solution that includes a phosphate buffer.
- **43**. A method of treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition of claim **36**.

* * * * *